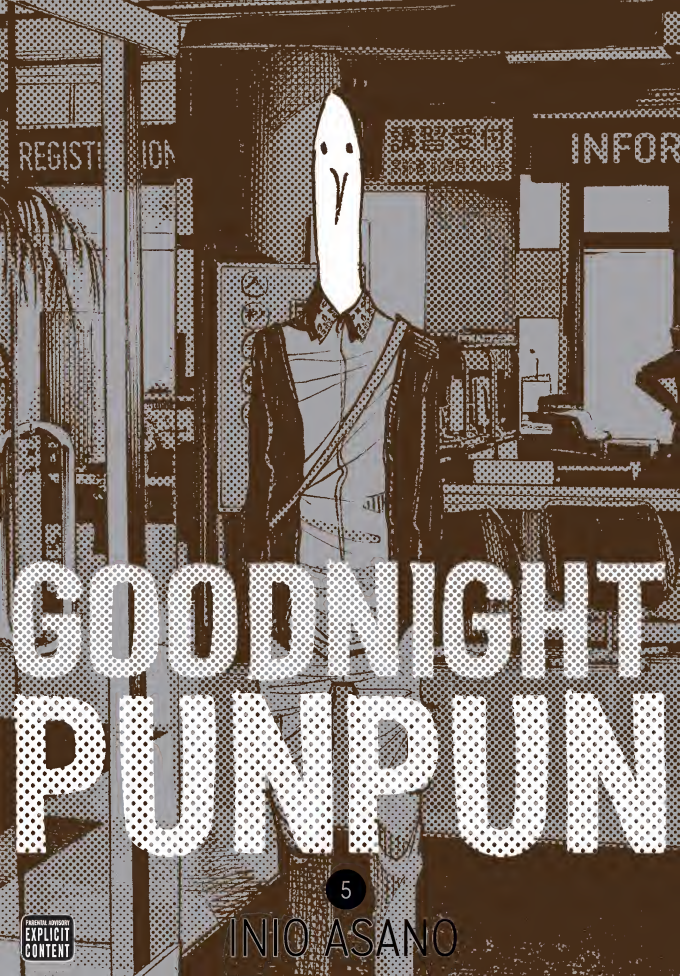




REGISTRATION

受付 留講
受付 留講

INFORMATION

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

5

INIO ASANO

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

5

Story and Art by INIO ASANO



GOODNIGHT PUMPKIN

Part Nine



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STORY THUS FAR...

After fondling, squeezing, inserting and coming, Punpun Onodera turns into a twisted hit-it and quit-it dick. More than friends and less than lovers, Punpun and Sach's wishy-washy relationship continues as they finish their manga.

That January, they crab walk to a publisher with their manga.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



PUNPUN ONODERA

A one-night stand of little consequence. Freelancer. Twenty years old.



SACHI NANJO

A tough-seeming aspiring cartoonist. Tutor at a cram school. Twenty-four years old.



YUKINOSHIN MIMURA

A dashing young man. College student.



MIYUKI KANIE

Slightly chubby star sign. Went to high school with Sachi. Married.



HEIROKU SHISHIDO

Old man. Runs Shishido Real Estate.



MASUMI SEKI

Apathetic young man with a mistaken understanding of freedom.



SHIMIZU

An unusual young man who has yet to wake from his dream. College student.



TOSHIKI

A fairy who has taken up residence in town.



PAOPAO CHANNEL

A 42-year-old Internet addict with a Lolita complex.



ECO BAG

A pesticide-free female chauvinist. A visiting professor at a local university.



WHITE PIG

Shop assistant. She's 155 pounds of magic.



IT'S AWKWARD WHEN YOU ONLY HAVE ONE BATTERY LEFT

It's awkward when you only have one battery left.



INFINITE ♡ LOVE

Has a degree in sports and possesses a quick Vassallo kick.



BUTT HAMBURGER

Silly woman aspiring to be a voice actress. Has an anime voice.



GUARDIAN ANGEL GIBOBOGIGI

Middle-aged woman incapable of picking up on social cues. Mother of two.



CONTRARY TO...

Meet you nice to, Baby. Deliveryman.



PRINCESS PUSSY (HIROMI NUMATA)

Sexy girl unsure of her future. College student.

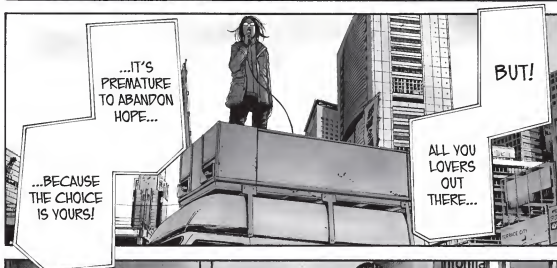


BIG BRO MOFUMOFU SWEET PRETTY LONELY HEART (WADA)

A math guy who loves absolutes. He and Toshiki were classmates. Tutor at a cram school.



AIKO TANAKA





GOOD,
GOOD,
GOOD

...
GOOD
VIBRA-
TIONS!!



AND SELL!
U
THE HAPPY!
OFAP

DAYS 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
ENDS 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

AIKO
TANAKA
...

24 HOURS
OPEN 10AM TO 11PM

HIND AND IGNORED
金機意解誤会

24

CLICK
MESSAGE

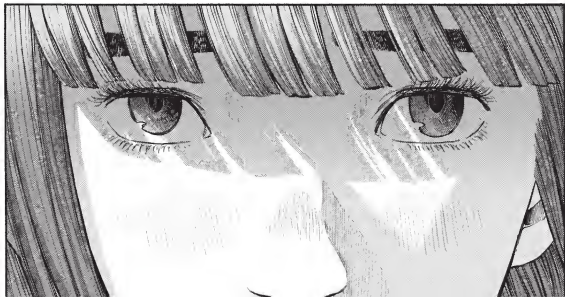
MAJOR 6F
100% FRESH

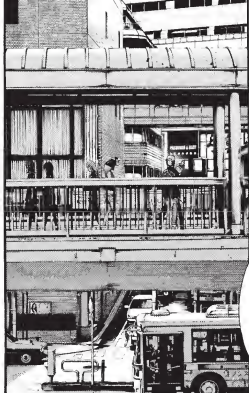
REFRESH

B1-1F FOOD COURTS

OPEN 24 HOUR
OPEN 10AM TO 11PM

...
RIGHT?

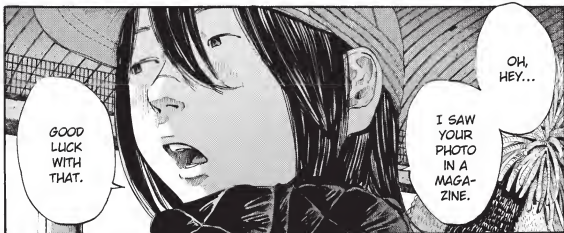




SORRY,
I'M IN A
HURRY.



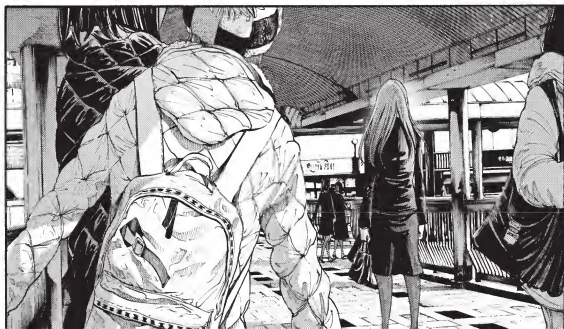
ARE
YOU
GOING
TO A
FUNERAL?



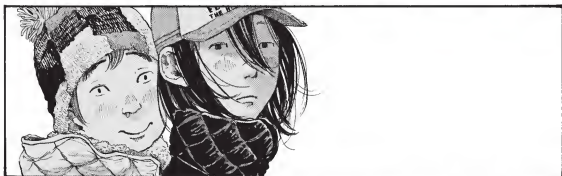
GOOD
LUCK
WITH
THAT.

OH,
HEY...

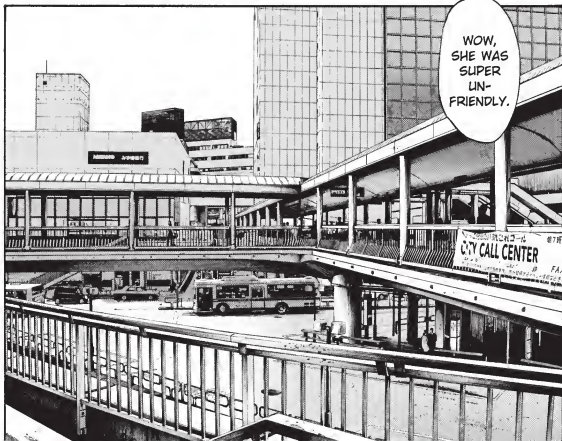
I SAW
YOUR
PHOTO
IN A
MAGA-
ZINE.

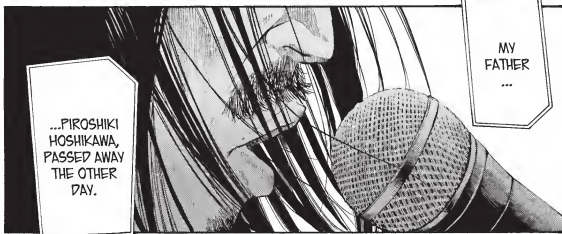


I THINK
YOU HAVE
THE WRONG
PERSON.



WOW,
SHE WAS
SUPER
UN-
FRIENDLY.





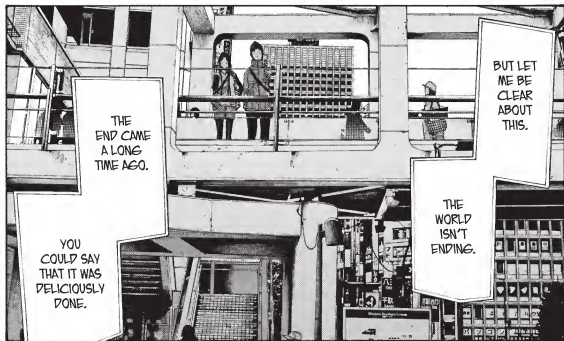




LET'S
HUSTLE,
ONODERA.

WHO
DOES HE
THINK
HE IS?

THE
EDITOR
WANTS TO
MOVE OUR
MEETING UP
HALF AN
HOUR.



THE
END CAME
A LONG
TIME AGO.

YOU
COULD SAY
THAT IT WAS
DELICIOUSLY
DONE.

BUT LET
ME BE
CLEAR
ABOUT
THIS.

THE
WORLD
ISN'T
ENDING.



LET'S
DISCARD
ALL THIS AND
CREATE A NEW
WORLD FULL OF
RAW HOPE!

...DON'T
LOSE
SIGHT OF
THE HOPE
WITHIN YOU.

BUT
ALL YOU
LOVERS
OUT
THERE...







LIMUNE
HAPPY NEW YEAR BARGAIN
1.1~1.7

Tobacco
Cigarettes & Accessories



NO HEALTH BEON

お申し込みはコチラから!





GOOD NIGHT

PUN PUN

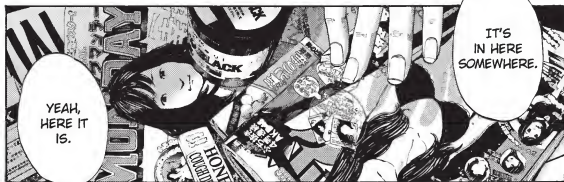


INIO
ASANO





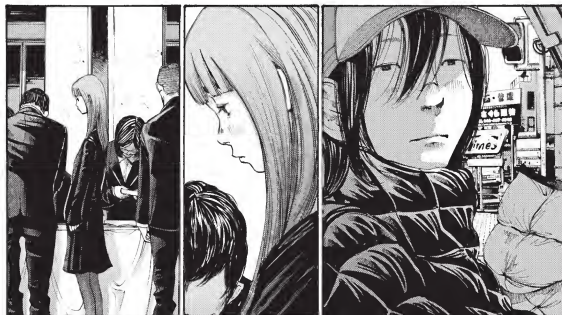
THE
FESTIVAL
HAS
BEGIN!

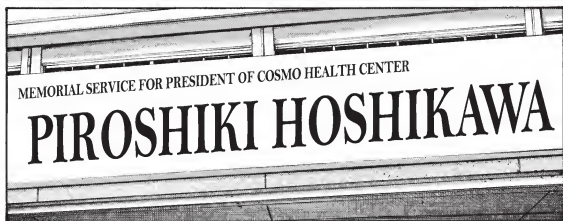


YEAH,
HERE IT
IS.

IT'S
IN HERE
SOMEWHERE.

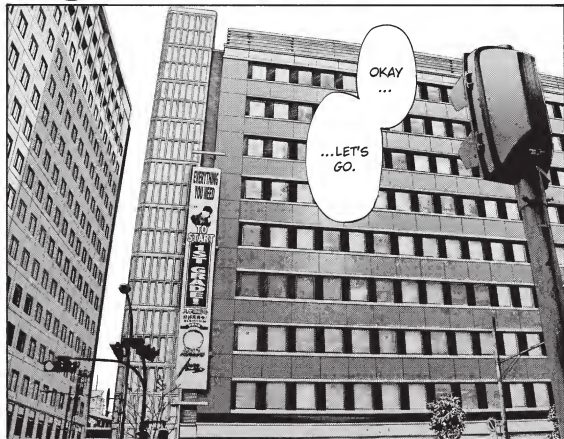
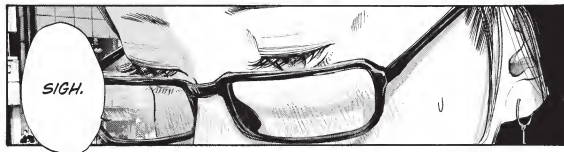




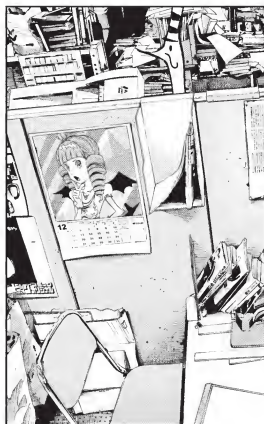


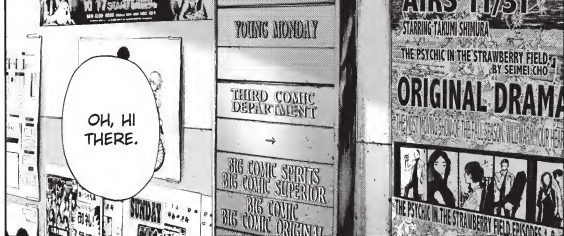


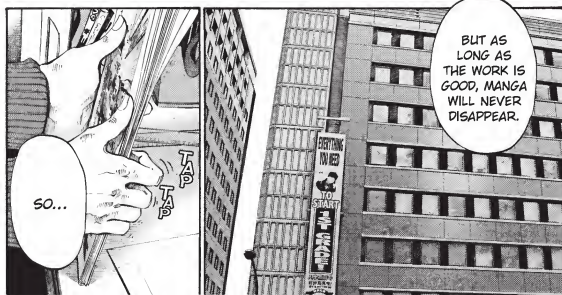
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME, YOU PRICK?!





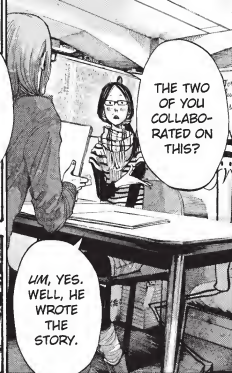




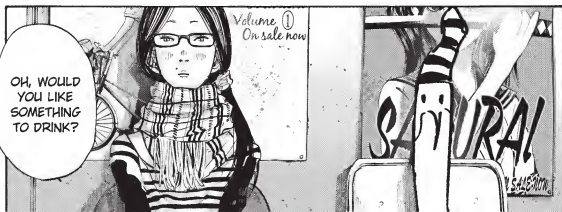


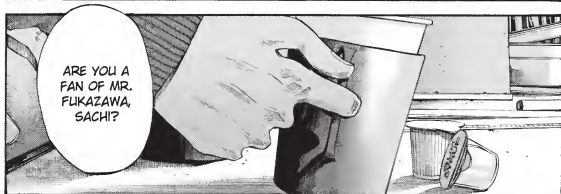


I THINK
IT'S GOOD,
SACHI.



UM, YES.
WELL, HE
WROTE
THE
STORY.







...THAT
MEANS
THERE'S A
READERSHIP
FOR THAT
KIND
OF STORY,
RIGHT?



WE DON'T
NEED TWO
AUTHORS
LIKE
THAT.

EVEN
IF
THERE
IS...



BUT...



OH,
HELLO
...

IT'S
ABOUT THE
DIALOGUE
ON PAGE
16, PANEL
THREE...

DAYS
LATER, HE
LEARNS THAT SHE
COMMITTED SUICIDE.
IN A WORLD THAT
NEVER CHANGES,
HE BEGINS
TO MOVE
FORWARD...

THE HERO IS
COMPLETELY
SELF-ABSORBED
AND COMPLETELY
UNINTERESTING.

SO,
YOUR
PIECE,
"SHOOTING
STAR AT
NOON"...

THE HERO,
AN ORDINARY
FREELANCER,
MOVES TO
TOKYO AND
SEES HIS HIGH
SCHOOL
CLASSMATE
AGAIN AFTER
SEVERAL
YEARS.



THIS JUST SEEMS LIKE WALLOWING IN ANGST TO ME.

EVEN FAILING IS GOOD FOR YOU! JUST MAKING THE EFFORT IS A BOOST TO YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE AND WILL HELP YOU IN THE LONG RUN.

IF YOU ASK ME, ANY PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED IN YOUR TWENTIES CAN USUALLY BE SOLVED BY THE APPLICATION OF A LITTLE HARD WORK.



THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD MORE UNFORTUNATE THAN THIS GUY...

PEOPLE WITH ILLNESSES AND DISABILITIES.

BRAGGING ABOUT YOUR ADVERSITY IS ANNOYING.

IT MAKES ME WANT TO SAY, "GET A GRIP!"



...AND CREATE A STORY THAT MOVES READERS?

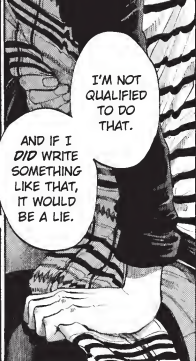
...FOCUS ON THOSE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE...

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS...



I THINK
SYMPATHIZING
WITH OTHER
PEOPLE'S
HARDSHIPS IS
A FRAUD.

FORTUNE
AND
MISFORTUNE
ARE
RELATIVE
...



AND IF I
DID WRITE
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT,
IT WOULD
BE A LIE.

I'M NOT
QUALIFIED
TO DO
THAT.



HMMM.



I BELIEVE
THAT PEOPLE
NEED THE
COURAGE TO
STEP BEYOND
THEIR TAME
EXISTENCE.

WE WANT
TO MAKE
SOMETHING
THAT SPEAKS
TO THE
AVERAGE
READER...

... ESPECIALLY
SINCE YOU
CAN HAVE A
NORMAL LIFE IN
JAPAN WITHOUT
STARVING, EVEN
WITHOUT LOFTY
IDEALS...

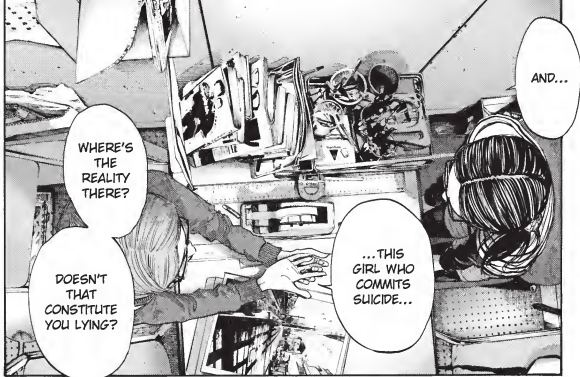


...IN SEEING
SOMEONE
JACK OFF.

I'D
LIKE TO
SEE IF
THERE'S
MEAN-
ING...

IT'S
MASTUR-
BATORY.

THAT'S
WHAT I
MEAN.
IT'S
TRAUMA
PORN.



WHERE'S
THE
REALITY
THERE?

DOESN'T
THAT
CONSTITUTE
YOU LYING?

...THIS
GIRL WHO
COMMITS
SUICIDE...

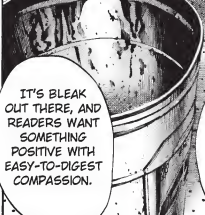
AND...



SO...

...IF I
HANG MYSELF
RIGHT NOW,
WOULD YOU
CONSIDER MY
MANGA TO BE
GOOD?

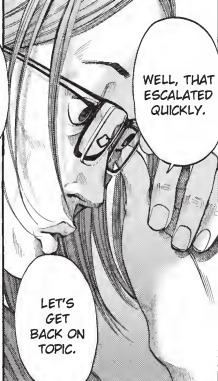




IT'S BLEAK
OUT THERE, AND
READERS WANT
SOMETHING
POSITIVE WITH
EASY-TO-DIGEST
COMPASSION.

...AN
ABSOLUTE
REQUIRE-
MENT THAT
A MANGA
HAS TO BE
ENTERTAIN-
ING.

IT'S...

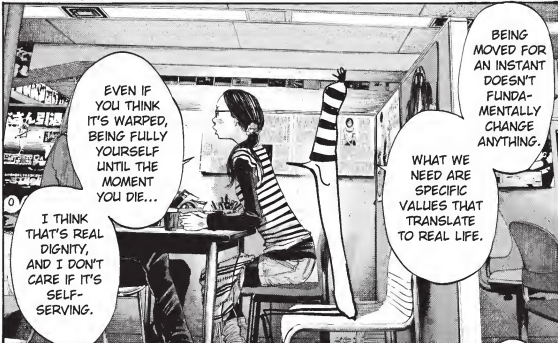


WELL, THAT
ESCALATED
QUICKLY.



IF
THAT'S WHAT
THEY FIND
ENTERTAINING,
DOESN'T THAT
MAKE THEM
IDIOTS?

LET'S
GET
BACK ON
TOPIC.



EVEN IF
YOU THINK
IT'S WARPED,
BEING FULLY
YOURSELF
UNTIL THE
MOMENT
YOU DIE...

I THINK
THAT'S REAL
DIGNITY,
AND I DON'T
CARE IF IT'S
SELF-
SERVING.

BEING
MOVED FOR
AN INSTANT
DOESN'T
FUNDA-
MENTALLY
CHANGE
ANYTHING.

WHAT WE
NEED ARE
SPECIFIC
VALUES THAT
TRANSLATE
TO REAL LIFE.

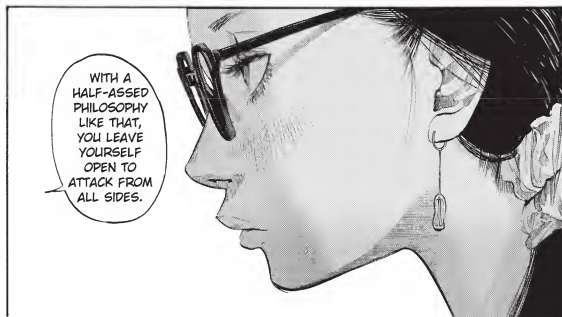


YOU
SEEM VERY
AGITATED.

CALM
DOWN,
SACHI...

...FOR
BEING TOO
ARROGANT.

THESE
DAYS AN
AUTHOR
GETS
REJECTED
...

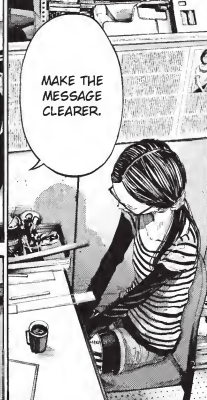




I'M NOT SAYING IT'S NECESSARILY BAD FOR AN AUTHOR TO SPEW THEIR EMOTIONS.

WELL ...

I'LL SUBMIT THIS FOR THE NEWCOMER CHALLENGE.



MAKE THE MESSAGE CLEARER.



BUT...



...MOST PEOPLE, MORE THAN YOU EVEN THINK...

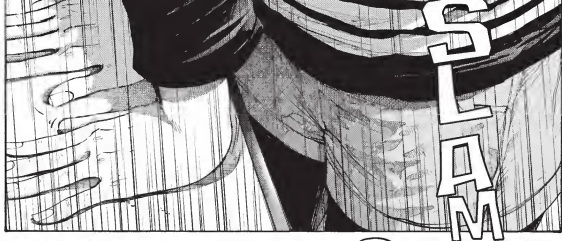
...HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST IN YOU.



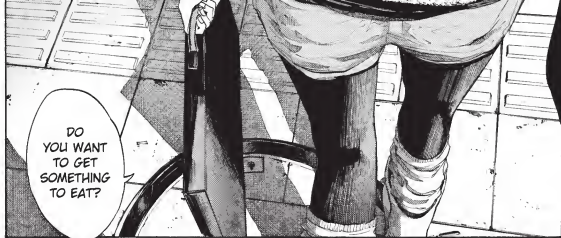
WE'RE CHANGING IT TO "I WANT TO SNIFF SNIFF HER LITTLE SLIT."

...THE DIALOGUE "I WANT TO SNIFF HER LITTLE SLIT."

YES, PAGE 16, PANEL THREE...

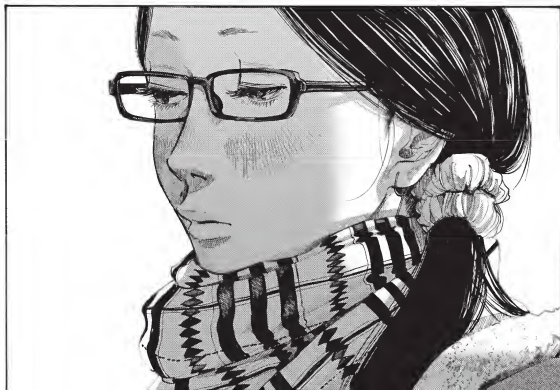








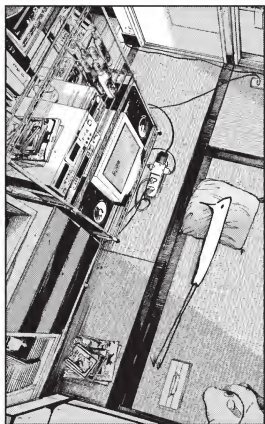
"You're
a genius,
Sachi.
You'll be
fine."

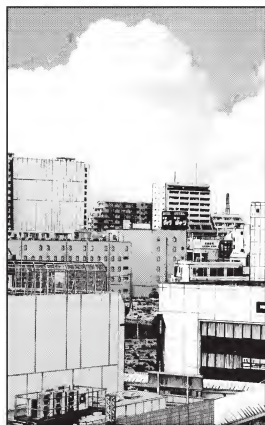


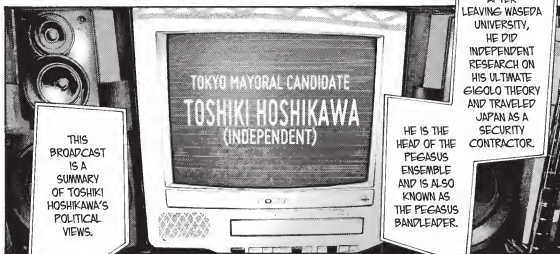














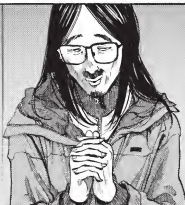
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)



THIS IS
PEGASUS.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

GOOD
MORNING,
EVERYONE.



I
DECLARE
...

...THAT ON
JULY 7 OF
THIS YEAR, IN
A POOF, THE
EARTH WILL
CEASE TO
EXIST.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

DUE TO
A SPECIAL
APPLICATION
OF MY
ULTIMATE
GIGOLO
THEORY,
I AM ABLE TO
TOUCH THE
FUTURE.

BY THAT
I MEAN
IT'S A
PROMISED
HOPELESS-
NESS.

AND IT'S AN
UNAVOIDABLE
ONE,
BECAUSE THE
DECISION HAS
ALREADY BEEN
MADE.



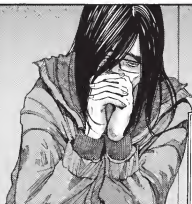
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

DO
YOU
WANT TO
KNOW
WHY?

TO PUT
IT IN SIMPLE
TERMS, IT'S LIKE
A ONE-EYED
DARUMA FALLING
FROM THE SKY.

MY
PREPARATIONS
ARE NOW
CULMINATING.

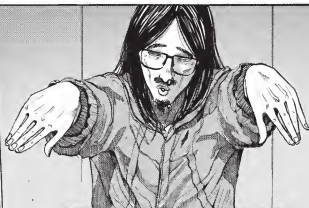
I
CAN
SAVE
THE
EARTH.



TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

AND I
HAVE BEEN
PREPARING
FOR THIS FOR
A LONG TIME.

I'VE BEEN
SEEKING
COMRADES
AND HONING
SKILLS TO
ELUDE THE
HOPELESS-
NESS.



TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

...VIBRATIONS!

GOOD...

IS THE
WORLD WORTH
SAVING?

BUT I'VE
ALWAYS
WONDERED
...

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

...THERE'S
SOMETHING
MISSING! IT'S
PAINFUL, LIKE
A SLOW STRAN-
GLATION...

IT'S PITCH-
BLACK, LIKE
THE END OF
THE WORLD.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

I'M SURE
THERE ARE MANY
LOVERS OUT
THERE WHO HAVE
FELT THE WORLD
STAGNATING
IN THE LAST
DECADE
OR SO.

NO MATTER
HOW MANY
THINGS WE HAVE
AND HOW CON-
NECTED OUR
TECHNOLOGY
MAKES US...

I THINK
IT HAS BEEN
COMPLETED,
IN THE MOST
BALANCED WAY
POSSIBLE.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

BUT I
THINK...

...THE
WORLD
HASN'T
ENDED.

SHOULDN'T
THAT BE
CELEBRATED?

CONGRATU-
LATIONS
EVERYONE.
CLAP, CLAP.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

IT
MEANS THE
WORLD IS
PERFECTLY
RIPE!

THIS VERY
SECOND IS
THE PEAK
OF
SCIENCE,
RELIGION
AND
CULTURE!

DOES
YOUR
STOMACH
HURT?

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

WHY?

HMM?
BUT YOU
ALL LOOK
SAD...

...YOU
ARE ALL
SELFISH.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

IT'S
BECAUSE
...

I WANT TO
ACKNOWLEDGE
YOUR
SELFISHNESS!

BUT
I...

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

LOVE.

BECAUSE
...

...I LOVE
YOU ALL
ABSOLUTELY.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

BUT I
COULD
ONLY
COME UP
WITH ONE
ANSWER.



SO I
THOUGHT
ABOUT
IT...

I
THOUGHT
ABOUT IT
HARD WHILE
TAKING
A NAP, I
SWEAR.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

...DISCARD
EVERYTHING
AND START
FRESH FOR THE
FUTURE!



WE
MUST...

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

...IF I
BECOME
MAYOR OF
TOKYO...



IF I...

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE

FROM THE
BLANK SLATE
OF LAWLESS-
NESS AND
CHAOS...

...LET'S
BUILD A NEW
WORLD
TOGETHER.

...I WILL
LIBERATE
ALL OF
TOKYO!

PLEASE AFFIX POSTER
IN INDICATED SPOT.
ONLY REGISTERED CANDIDATES
MAY USE THIS BOARD.
DAMAGING OR DEFACING POSTER
CAN RESULT IN A PENALTY OR FINE.

DO
NOT PARK
CARS
OR
BICYCLES
IN FRONT OF
THIS BULLETIN
BOARD.

TOKYO
MAYORAL
RACE

ACTION
COMMITTEE







I'M SURE
YOU ALL WANT TO
SEE AN EQUAL,
HAPPY, SMILING
WORLD, RIGHT?

I THINK
RIGHT NOW WE
CAN GO BEYOND
RACE, RELIGION
OR NATIONALITY
AND
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER.



...AND CHANGE
INTO THIS
PEGASUS
T-SHIRT.

THEN
TAKE OFF
YOUR CLOTHES
RIGHT NOW...



I WILL
CONDUCT YOU
IN SINGING
A SONG OF
PRAYER TO
YOUR HEARTS'
CONTENT.

FAMILIES,
FRIENDS,
LOVERS—
DISCARD
SUCH
PETTY
COMMUNITIES
...

GET RID OF
YOUR HOUSES,
YOUR ASSETS AND
YOUR JOBS! GATHER
AS A MEMBER OF
PURE HUMANITY IN
FRONT OF TOKYO
CITY HALL.

YOU
CAN
LIVE!!!

YOU
CAN
LIVE!!!

KIDS AND
ADULTS,
GRANDPAS AND
GRANDMAS...

...NERDS
AND BULLIES,
PEDOPHILES
AND
MURDERERS,
IT DOESN'T
MATTER.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

AND
TALK
ABOUT THE
FUTURE.

LET'S
ALL HOLD
HANDS AS
ONE.

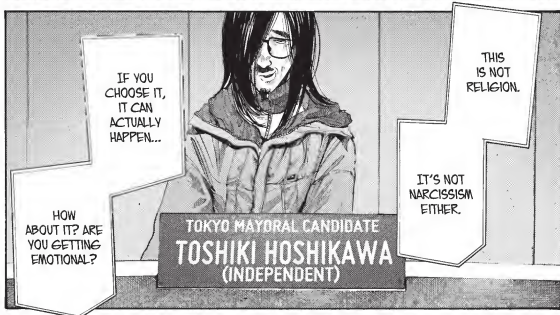
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

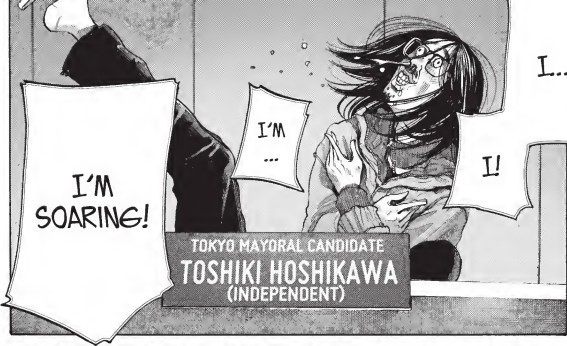
IT'S
FINE. THEY
AREN'T
HUMAN.

IF ANYONE
OUT THERE
DOESN'T
WANT TO
HOLD
HANDS...

...LET'S
GET
TOGETHER
AND BEAT
THEM TO
DEATH.

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)





**I'M
SOARING!**

**I'M
...**

I!

I...

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)



TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

...I WILL
HAPPILY
GO AND
STAB THE
PROMISED
HOPELESSNESS.

IF YOU
AGREE
WITH ME...



TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)





TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)



TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)



TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)



TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

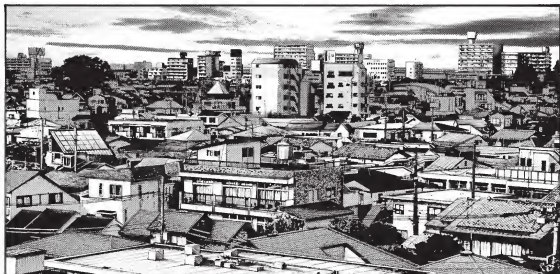
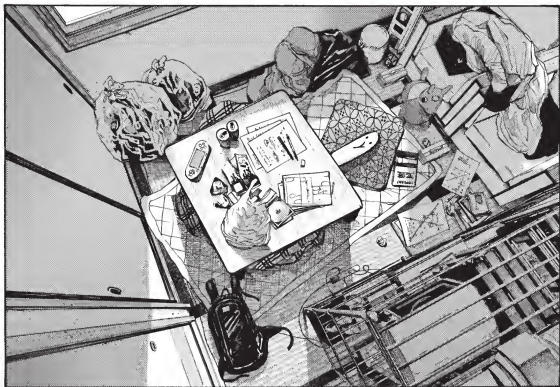


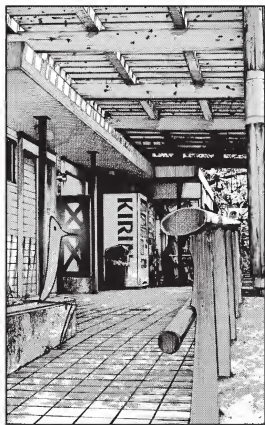
TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

600-

TOKYO MAYORAL CANDIDATE
TOSHIKI HOSHIKAWA
(INDEPENDENT)

THIS WAS
TOSHIKI
HOSHIKAWA,
EXPLAINING
HIS
POLITICAL
VIEWS.







☆

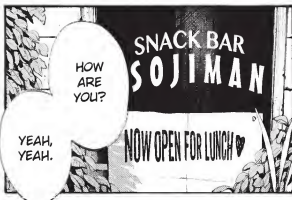
Chapter 93

☆



☆







LET'S
LEAVE SACHI
HERE AND
GO TO THE
DISASTER
ZONE
TOGETHER
TO HELP
OUT.



MIMURA...



YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO BELIEVE
THIS.



...SCHOOL
STARTS
NEXT
WEEK.



UHH...



THIS
PIG KEEPS
GOING ON
ABOUT HOW
SHE CAN'T
STOP CRYING,
SHE CAN'T
EAT...
GEEZ!



JUST LAST
MONTH YOU
WERE SAYING
HOW YOU NEED
TO HURRY UP
AND REINCARNATE
AS A SIAMESE
CAT...



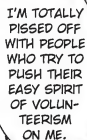
SO HURRY
UP AND DIE.
NO ONE'S
STOPPING
YOU.



HEY...



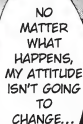
...WHY ARE
YOU SO
SERIOUS
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?



I'M TOTALLY
PISSED OFF
WITH PEOPLE
WHO TRY TO
PUSH THEIR
EASY SPIRIT
OF VOLUN-
TEERISM
ON ME.



...AND
I'M NOT
GOING TO
LIVE FOR
ANYONE
BUT
MYSELF...



NO
MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS,
MY ATTITUDE
ISN'T GOING
TO
CHANGE...



I NEVER
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
SO SELFISH
AND BRUTAL.

SIGH...
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT...

ARE YOU
INCAPABLE
OF
SORROW?



AND IS IT
REALLY HEALTHY
TO SPEND SO
MUCH ENERGY
GUILT-TRIPPING
ME FOR NOT
STOPPING AT
THE COLLECTION
BOXES?

WHAT,
LIKE YOU'RE
ACTING ON
TOTALLY
PURE
INTENTIONS?
I DOUBT IT...

YOU JUST
FEEL GUILTY
ABOUT HAVING
A NICE LIFE
AND WANT THE
SATISFACTION
OF WASHING
THAT FEELING
AWAY.

THINK
ABOUT
WHICH
OF US
IS MORE
SCREWED
UP.



YOU'RE
SO FULL
OF IT.



THERE,
THERE,
SACHI...



SO
WHAT?

I'M NOT
REALLY
SURE WHAT'S
GOING ON, BUT
MY ABS ARE
TELLING ME
YOU SHOULD
BOTH CALM
DOWN.



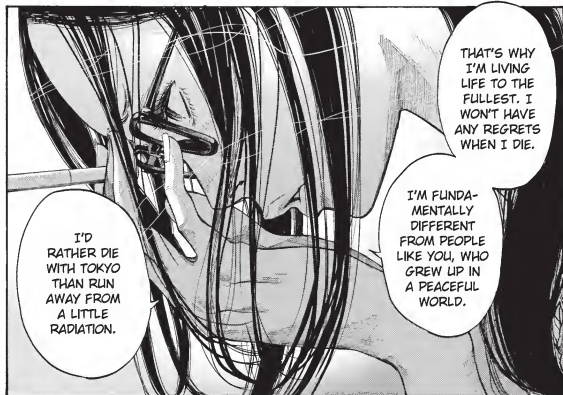
WHAT?
YOU'RE
GOING TO
HAVE TO
ACCEPT IT
EVENTU-
ALLY.

WHAT'S
THE POINT
OF RUNNING
AWAY FROM
THE FEAR?

NATURAL
AMERICAN
SPIRIT

TOKYO
MAY BE IN
DANGER,
AND YOU'RE
NOT AFRAID
ENOUGH IN
GENERAL.

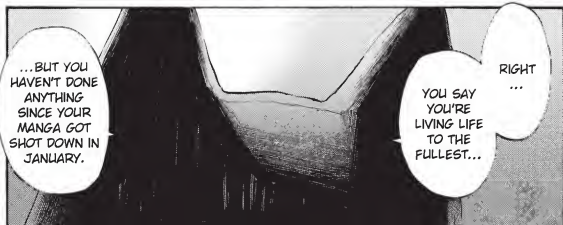
SACHI, YOU
DON'T SEEM
TO REALIZE
THAT IT COULD
HAPPEN
TO US
TOMORROW.



THAT'S WHY
I'M LIVING
LIFE TO THE
FULLEST. I
WON'T HAVE
ANY REGRETS
WHEN I DIE.

I'M FUNDA-
MENTALLY
DIFFERENT
FROM PEOPLE
LIKE YOU, WHO
GREW UP IN
A PEACEFUL
WORLD.

I'D
RATHER DIE
WITH TOKYO
THAN RUN
AWAY FROM
A LITTLE
RADIATION.



...BUT YOU
HAVEN'T DONE
ANYTHING
SINCE YOUR
MANGA GOT
SHOT DOWN IN
JANUARY.

YOU SAY
YOU'RE
LIVING LIFE
TO THE
FULLEST...

RIGHT
...



A STORY
LAMENTING
THE BOREDOM
OF AN
ORDINARY LIFE
HAS ABOUT
AS MUCH
SUBSTANCE
AS AIR.

HAVE
YOU AND
PUNPUN
HIT A
WALL?

I GUESS
THAT'S TO
BE EXPECTED
WITH THE KIND
OF MANGA
YOU'RE AIMING
FOR.



YOU
SHOULD
TRY
CHANGING
TOO,
SACHI.

THE
WORLD
KEEPS
CHANGING
...



JUST
REMEMBER
YOU SAID
THIS...

...BECAUSE IN
A FEW MONTHS
YOU'LL BE
STUFFING YOUR
FACE LIKE NOTHING
HAPPENED, AND ALL
THIS SUFFERING
WILL BE
COMPLETELY
FORGOTTEN.

THIS
IS *NOT*
ENOUGH TO
MAKE ME
CHANGE.

BESIDES,
YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO DOESN'T
CHANGE, NO
MATTER WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN
THE WORLD.



THERE,
THERE...

IT'S NOT
THAT BIG A
DEAL.



SHUT
UP YOU,
INSENSITIVE
COW!



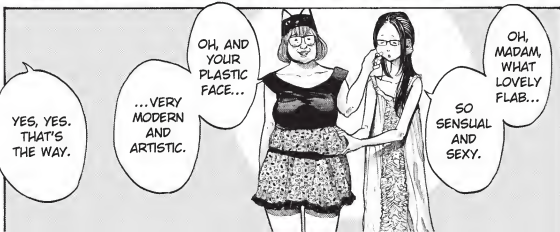
ALL RIGHT,
COME AT ME!
I'LL REALLY
MAKE YOU
CRY.



LET'S
ALL GET
TOGETHER
AND GO SEE
THEM.

ACTUALLY
...

...THE
CHERRY
BLOSSOMS
WILL BE
IN FULL
BLOOM
SOON.



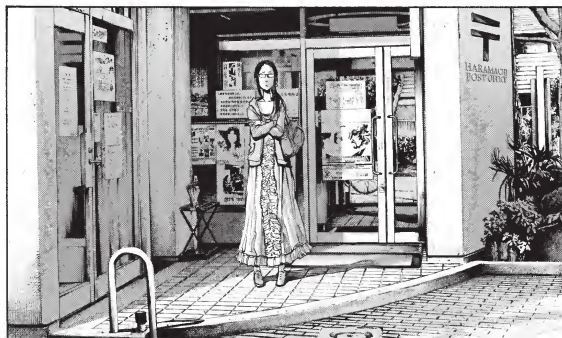
YES, YES.
THAT'S
THE WAY.

...VERY
MODERN
AND
ARTISTIC.

OH, AND
YOUR
PLASTIC
FACE...

SO
SENSUAL
AND
SEXY.

OH,
MADAM,
WHAT
LOVELY
FLAB...





NO...

...WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH LATELY.

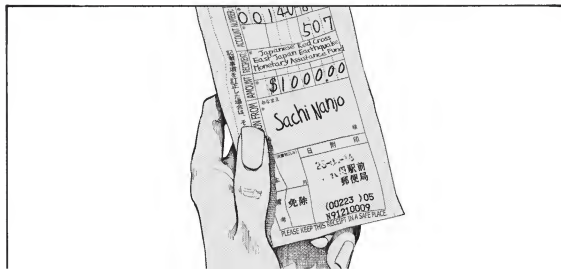


... WHY AREN'T THE TWO OF YOU GOING OUT?

YOU GUYS AREN'T TOGETHER TODAY?



DON'T KNOW.









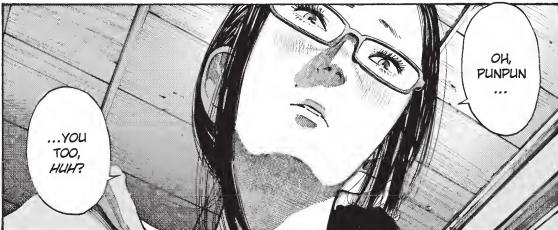


UGH,
IT'S
FILTHY
IN
HERE...

DO YOU
WANT ME
TO HELP
CLEAN
UP?



I'M
COMING
IN.



OH,
PUNPUN
...

...YOU
TOO,
HUH?



ARE YOU
MAKING
PROGRESS
ON THE
MANGA?

AS
IF.



"...about
how
utterly
useless
I am."

"For the
past few
weeks,
I've been
thinking..."



"I feel like
all I do is
hold you
back."



"I'm
your
pet?"

"So
then..."



WHATEVER,
DO WHAT
YOU WANT.



I
WILL
TOO.



SO
WHAT
IF YOU
ARE?

DO YOU
HAVE A
PROBLEM
WITH
THAT?



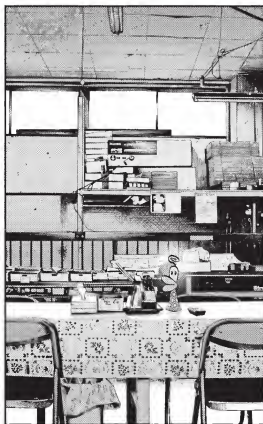


TAKASIMA
PHARMACY
24H-OPEN

NAKANAKI SHOPPING STREET

内科
加藤医院



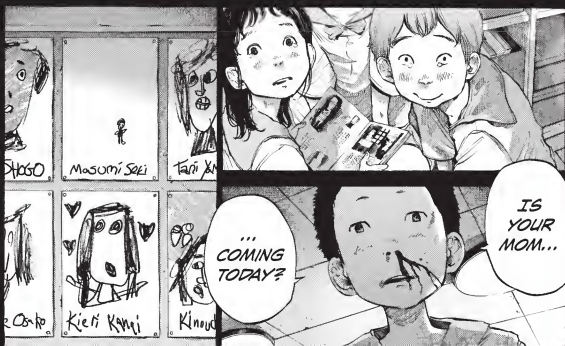


TEACHER!

AARGH!

THANK YOU, MOM.

HEY,
SHIMIZU.



SHOGO

MASUMI SAKI

TAKI

OSAKA

KIERI KAMI

KINOSHITA

...
COMING
TODAY?

IS
YOUR
MOM...





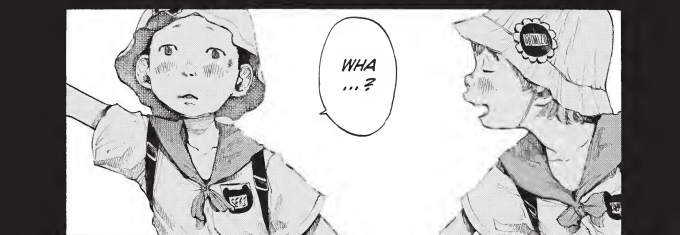
MASUMI'S
PARENTS ARE
VERY BUSY
AT WORK,
SO YOU TWO
HAVE TO GET
ALONG.



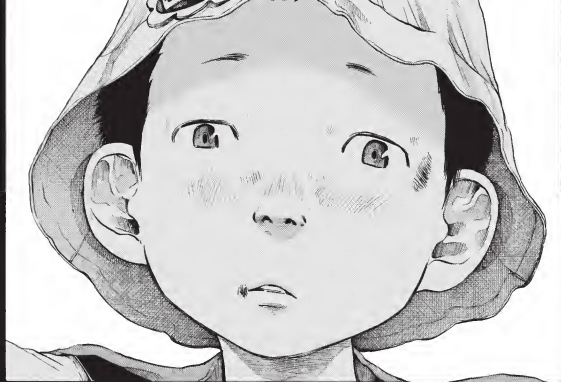
SEKI

LET'S
ALL
HOLD
HANDS
AND
WALK
HOME.

HEY,
MASUMI,
DON'T BE
SHY..



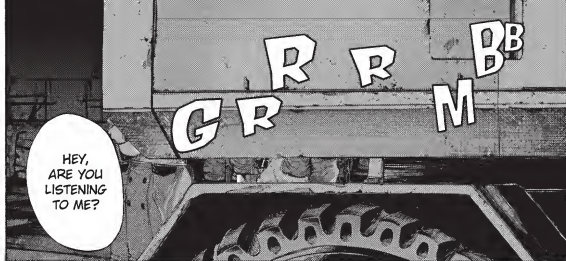
WHA
... ?



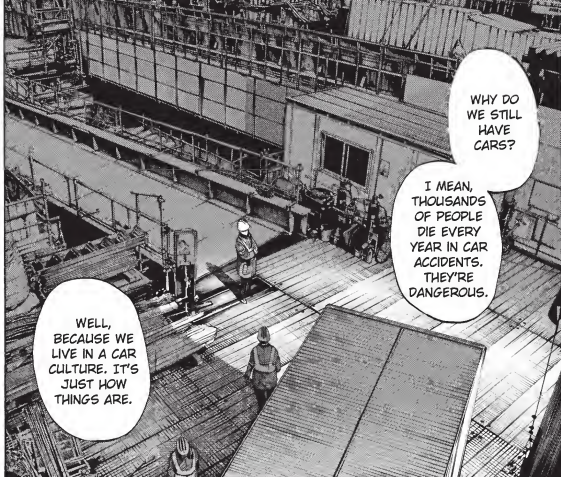
HEY

...

HEY.







WHY DO
WE STILL
HAVE
CARS?

I MEAN,
THOUSANDS
OF PEOPLE
DIE EVERY
YEAR IN CAR
ACCIDENTS.
THEY'RE
DANGEROUS.

WELL,
BECAUSE WE
LIVE IN A CAR
CULTURE. IT'S
JUST HOW
THINGS ARE.



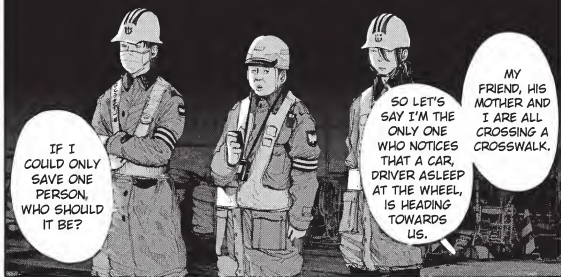
SHUT UP.
GO FIND THE
RED-LIGHT
DISTRICT
AND GET
YOURSELF
LAID.

SO, A
NECES-
SARY
EVIL...

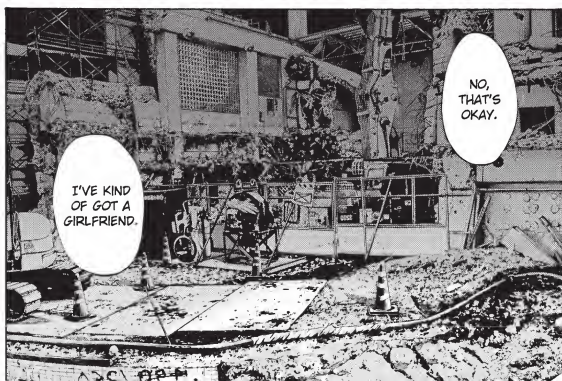
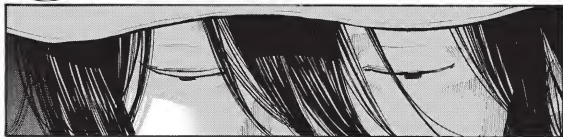
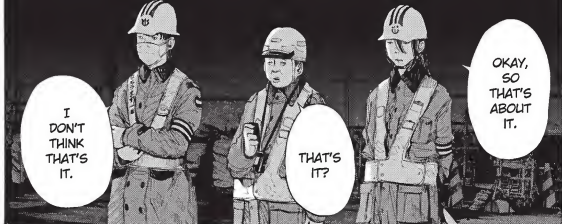
LIKE
NUCLEAR
POWER AND
WARS THAT
SUPPORT
OUR WAY
OF LIFE.

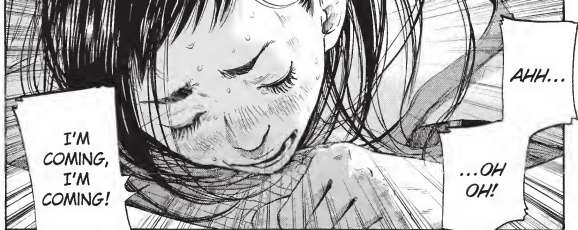


OKAY,
HERE'S A
QUESTION.









I'M
COMING,
I'M
COMING!

AHH...

...OH
OH!



DO YOU
WORK
TOMOR-
ROW?



...BUT YOU
DON'T EVEN
SPEND ALL
THE MONEY
YOU MAKE.

YOU
WORK SO
HARD...



IF I KEEP
MOVING, I
DON'T HAVE
TO THINK.



YEAH,
THE JUNK-
COLLECTOR
JOB.



I HAVE
THE WHOLE
DAY OFF
TOMORROW.



I MIGHT
QUIT THE
CONSTRUC-
TION JOB
THOUGH.



I CAN'T
TAKE
IT OFF-
SHIMIZU
SAYS HE'S
COMING
TOO.



IT'S A
LITTLE SCARY
WHEN THE
HEAVY
MACHINERY
AND TRUCKS
GO BY.



HEY,
DIDN'T
I JUST
MAKE YOU
COME?

SHIMIZU,
SHIMIZU!
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
HANGING
OUT WITH
HIM!

ARE
YOU
GAY?

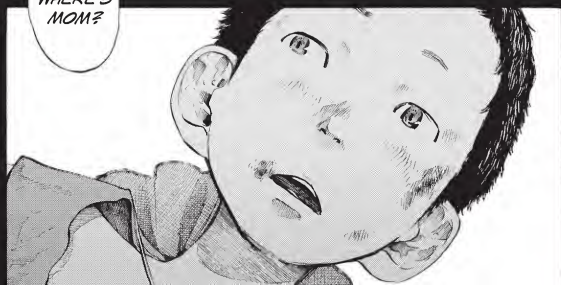
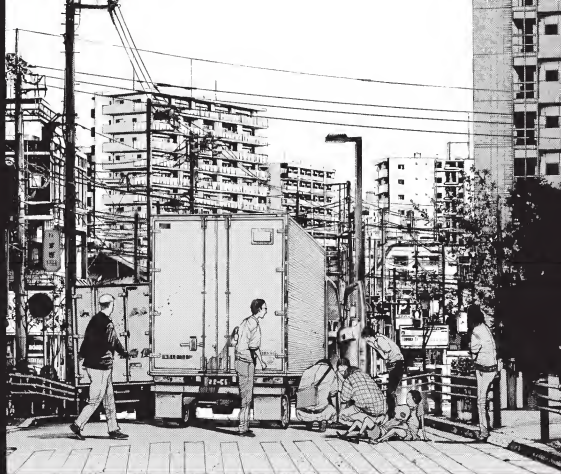


I'M
SERIOUS.

BECAUSE
YOU DON'T
SMOKE.

WHY ARE
YOU GOING
OUT WITH
ME?

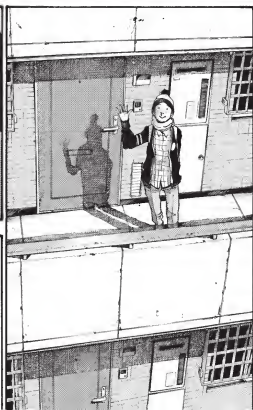
I WAS
WONDER-
ING...

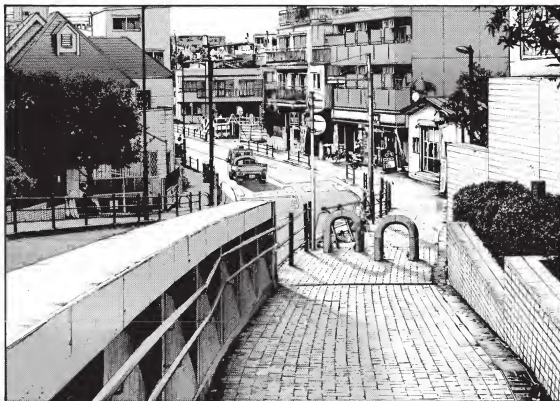
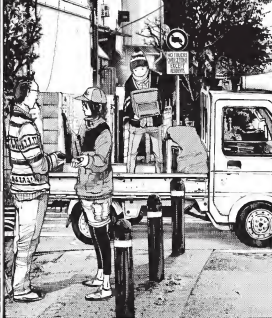


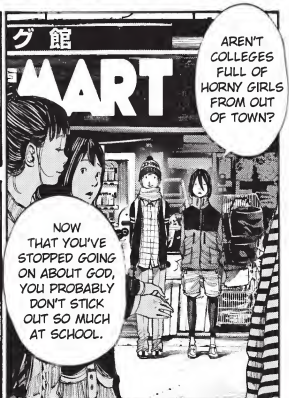
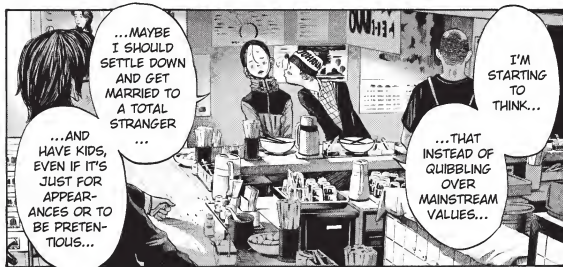














YEAH ...

...BUT...

IT SEEMS
LIKE A LOT
OF WORK,
SO NO
THANKS.



BESIDES,
I DON'T
WANT TO
LEAVE
MY MOM
ALONE.



HEY...

...WHAT
DID YOU
JUST
SAY?



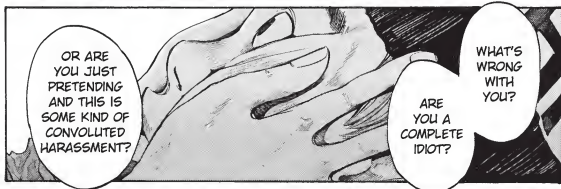
WHAT
DID YOU
JUST
SAY?!



THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT WHEN WE WERE IN KINDERGARTEN.

IT'S JUST YOUR DAD, YOUR GRANDPA AND YOUR SISTER. JUST THE FOUR OF YOU.

YOU KNOW YOUR MOM IS DEAD, RIGHT?



OR ARE YOU JUST PRETENDING AND THIS IS SOME KIND OF CONVOLUTED HARASSMENT?

ARE YOU A COMPLETE IDIOT?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?



YOU'RE HOLDING ME BACK.

...THAT MY LIFE IS SHIT BECAUSE I'M WITH YOU.

LATELY I KEEP THINKING ...







GOOD
VIBRATIONS.

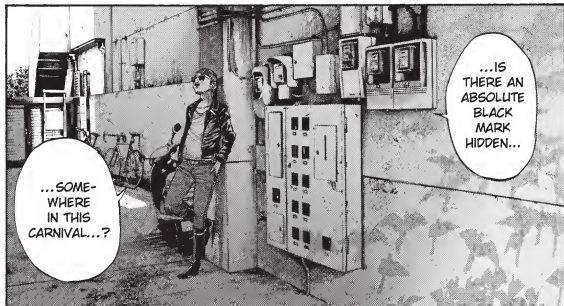




WE MAGIC
WARRIORS CAN
REPAIR THE
DISCORDANT
CHORDS OF THE
AKASHIC RECORDS
USING THE
OVERWHELMING
STABILITY OF
A REGULAR
TETRAHEDRON.

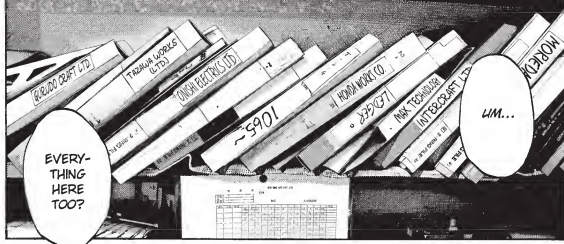
BUT WHY
DO YOU
REFUSE,
LOVERS?

ARE YOU
CHILDREN
WHO CAN?
OR...



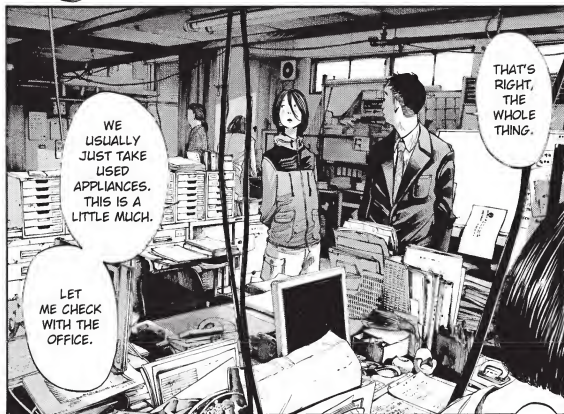
...IS
THERE AN
ABSOLUTE
BLACK
MARK
HIDDEN...

...SOME-
WHERE
IN THIS
CARNIVAL...?



EVERY-
THING
HERE
TOO?

UM...



WE
USUALLY
JUST TAKE
USED
APPLIANCES.
THIS IS A
LITTLE MUCH.

THAT'S
RIGHT,
THE
WHOLE
THING.

LET
ME CHECK
WITH THE
OFFICE.



NO, I
HAVE THE
AUTHORITY
HERE. YOU
DON'T EVEN
NEED TO BE
HERE.

BESIDES,
WE'VE
TALKED IT
ALL OVER
WITH THE
LAWYERS.

UM,
MASAKI...

YOU
CAN'T JUST
GET RID OF
EVERYTHING
LIKE THIS.
LET'S TALK
ABOUT IT
AGAIN.



MY DAD
WAS LAZY
AND DIDN'T
INCORPORATE,
SO WE HAD A
LOT OF PROB-
LEMS WITH THE
INHERITANCE
...

I
INHERITED
THIS
BUILDING
FROM MY
FATHER...

...ALONG
WITH SOME
DOJO-ISH
BUILDINGS IN
NERIMA AND
HACHIOJI.

HAVING
SAID THAT,
OF COURSE
I'M GOING
TO SHUT
THIS SHADY
COMPANY
DOWN.

COSMO HEALTH CENTER



YEAH, MY
BUSINESS
IS NOTHING
LIKE MY
DAD'S.

ORIGINALLY,
IT WAS JUST
A CHIRO-
PRACTIC
AND QIGONG
PRACTICE.

I
STARTED
IT WHILE
I WAS IN
COLLEGE. I
RUN CELL
PHONE
SITES.

I'M SURE
SOMEONE
CALLED HIM
"DOCTOR"
ONCE, AND
HE STARTED
TO GET
IDEAS.

PRESIDENT
MASAKI
HOSHIO

TELEPHONE
FAX







RUNNING
FOR
MAYOR...
WHAT A
STUPID
GAME.

YOU AREN'T
GETTING ANY
MORE HANDOUTS
FROM DAD.
YOU CAN'T GO
AROUND PLAYING
BEGGAR NOW.



TOSHIKI,
QUIT
HANGING
AROUND
WASTING
TIME.



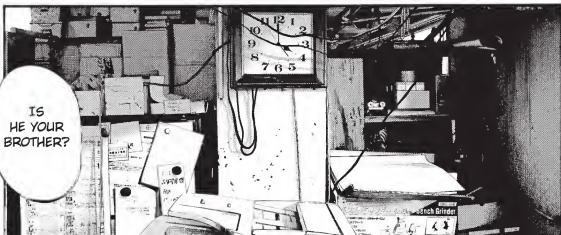
EVEN
THESE
KIDS ARE
WORKING
HARD.



DO
YOU KNOW
HOW MUCH
THEY'RE GOING
AT YOU
ON THE
INTERNET?

DON'T
"HUH?"
ME.

DO YOU
REALLY THINK
YOU'RE GOING
TO WIN? HOW
DELUDED ARE
YOU?!



IS
HE YOUR
BROTHER?



I'VE
NEVER
KNOWN
WHAT HE'S
THINKING...

ACTUALLY,
HE'S GOT
SOME KIND
OF GROUP OF
DISCIPLES, AND
THEY'RE UP
TO SOMETHING
WEIRD.

...BUT HIS
CONS WORK,
JUST LIKE
MY DAD'S.

I
INHERITED MY
DAD'S TALENT
FOR MONEY,
SO I GUESS
WE DIVIDED
HIS TALENTS
EVENLY.



IN JUST
ONE NIGHT, A
HUGE PILE OF
DESKS WAS
RAISED INTO A
PYRAMID IN THE
COURTYARD OF
A MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

HAVE YOU
HEARD OF THE
PYRAMID OF
SAGAMIHARA?

NO...

OVER 900
DESKS, FORMED
INTO A PERFECT
REGULAR
TETRAHEDRON.

IT WAS
PROBABLY
BEFORE
YOUR TIME.





"ONCE AGAIN,
UNBEKNOWNST
TO THE MASSES,
COUNTLESS
LIVES WERE
SAVED FROM
UNPRECEDENTED
DISASTERS."

"I WAS
ABLE TO
STABILIZE THE
VIBRATIONAL
DISTURBANCE."



JUST TWO
MORE AND I
WILL BE ABLE
TO BATTLE THE
ABSOLUTE-EVIL
DISSONANCE.

JUST
TWO
MORE...

THE
ONES TO
COME ARE
SERIOUSLY
UNPREC-
EDENTED.

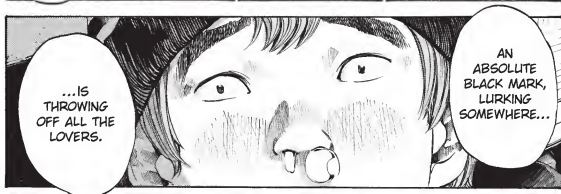
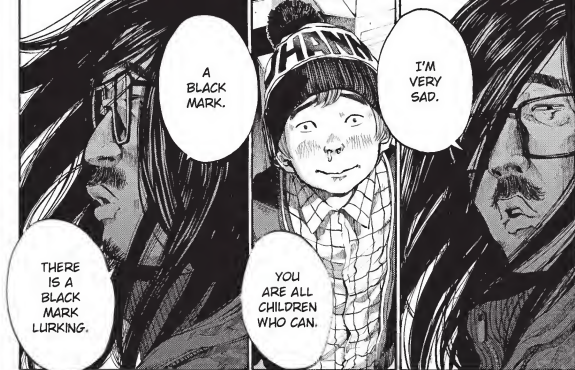
BUT THEY
CONTINUE TO
LEAPFROG
THEIR WAY
BIGGER AND
BIGGER.



MAYBE
THIS
WORLD
ISN'T
WORTH
SAVING.

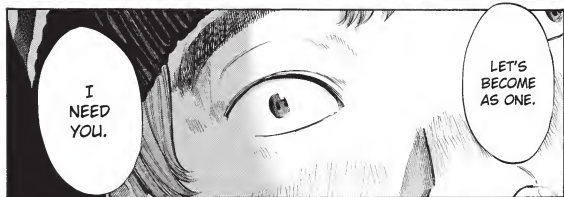
WHY
WON'T YOU
LOOK AT THE
DESPAIR RIGHT
IN FRONT OF
YOU AND
CONTINUE
FORWARD INTO
DISASTER?

BUT WHY,
LOVERS?





THE WORLD
CAN BECOME
MORE
BEAUTIFUL.



I
NEED
YOU.

LET'S
BECOME
AS ONE.



...
COMRADES.

WE
ARE...





WHAT
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO LIVE
FOR NOW?

SHUT UP.
DON'T
EXAGGER-
ATE.

MURDERER!
YOU'RE A
MURDERER!



BESIDES,
YOU'RE ALL
FINE, EVEN
THOUGH
MY DAD IS
DEAD.

PEOPLE
DON'T
DIE THAT
EASILY.



WELL...

...THERE
ARE SOME
THINGS YOU
CAN'T BUY.



I
DON'T
LIKE TO
THINK
THAT
WAY.

LIKE
MEMO-
RIES?
PEOPLE'S
FEEL-
INGS?



SEI!
SEI!

WHAT IS
THAT? IT'S
CREEPY. IF
YOU DON'T
LIKE IT, YOU
CAN BUY THE
LAND FROM
ME.



...ALSO
CAN'T BE
SOLD WHEN
THEY'RE
NO LONGER
NEEDED.

BESIDES,
THINGS
YOU CAN'T
BUY...



YEAH...

...YOU
HAVE A
POINT.

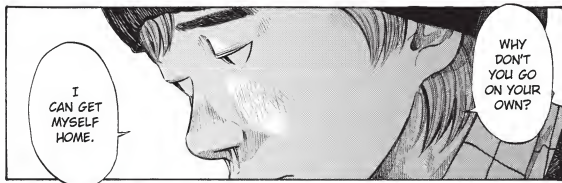


SHIMIZU
...

...LET'S
GO.



HEY.



I
CAN GET
MYSELF
HOME.

WHY
DON'T
YOU GO
ON YOUR
OWN?



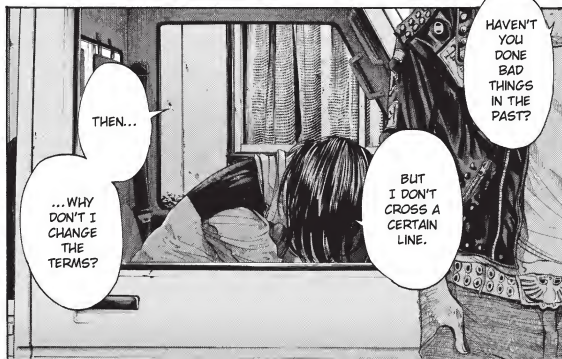
I'M
IN YOUR
WAY, RIGHT,
SEKI?



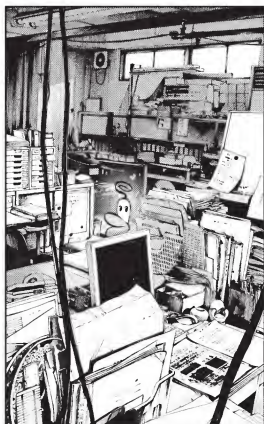
WHY? I
HAVE THE
CAR-I'LL
DROP YOU
OFF.

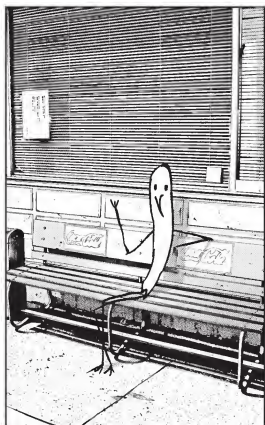








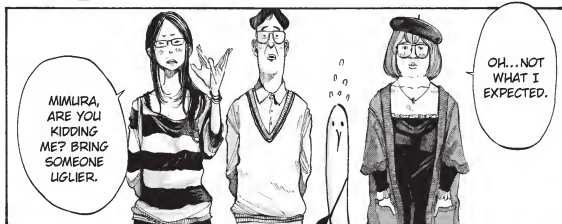




☆

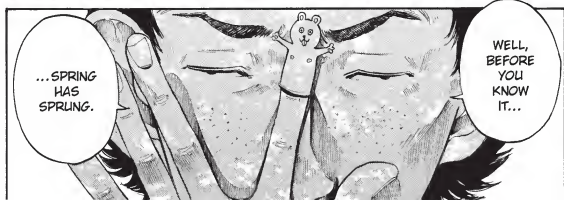
Chapter 96

☆



☆☆

☆





THIS
SPRING I'VE
DECIDED THAT
JUST A TEACHING
CERTIFICATE ISN'T
SECURE ENOUGH,
SO I'VE STARTED
GOING TO INFOR-
MATION MEETINGS
AT CORPORATE
OFFICES.

I'M
WEARING
A SUIT—
CAN YOU
BELIEVE
IT?

SINCE '95,
SO THIS IS
OUR SIXTH
SPRING.

SO HOW
LONG HAVE
WE KNOWN
EACH
OTHER?



...WHILE
YOU LIVE
THIS CARE-
LESS, JERK-
OFF LIFE. I'M
SO JEALOUS
OF YOU, YOU
PERVERTED
DEVIL.

YOU GLANCE
AT THE FREE-
SPIRITED ME,
WHOSE SOUL
IS TURNING TO
LEAD SO THAT
I CAN BECOME
A CORPORATE
WARRIOR...



I'LL
GO
LOOK
OVER
THERE.

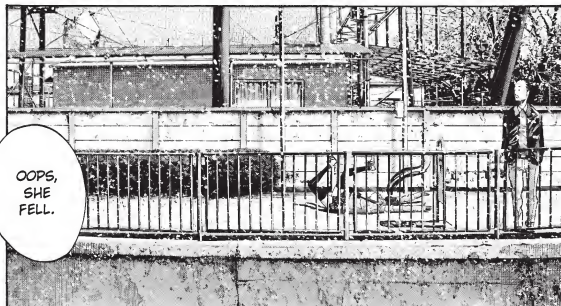
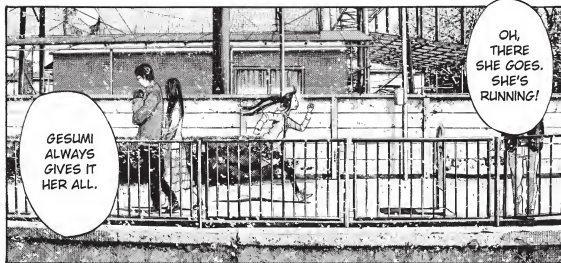
YES, YES,
YES, GO TO
THE VERY
ENDS OF
THE EARTH!



WHEN YOU
BECOME A
REAL ESTATE
AGENT, I'M
GOING TO ACT
COOL AND
COME RENT
A NICE ROOM
FROM YOU,
ONOTTI.

GEEZ,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOU'RE
CARRYING
THAT
AROUND.

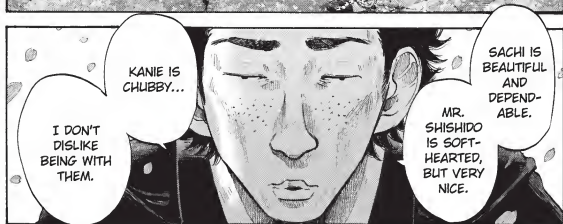






I
WONDER
IF
GESUMI...

...WILL GET
ALONG WITH
EVERYONE?



KANIE IS
CHUBBY...

I DON'T
DISLIKE
BEING WITH
THEM.

SACHI IS
BEAUTIFUL
AND
DEPEND-
ABLE.

MR.
SHISHIDO
IS SOFT-
HEARTED,
BUT VERY
NICE.



...AND
COMPLAINING
ABOUT WORK,
BUT THAT'S
OKAY TOO.

I'M SURE
BY THEN
WE'LL ALL
BE SAYING
HOW BUSY
WE ARE...

...NEXT
YEAR AND
THE YEAR
AFTER
THAT.

WE
SHOULD
ALL GET
TOGETHER
...



...
HONESTLY
...

BUT...



...COULD
CONTINUE
FOREVER.

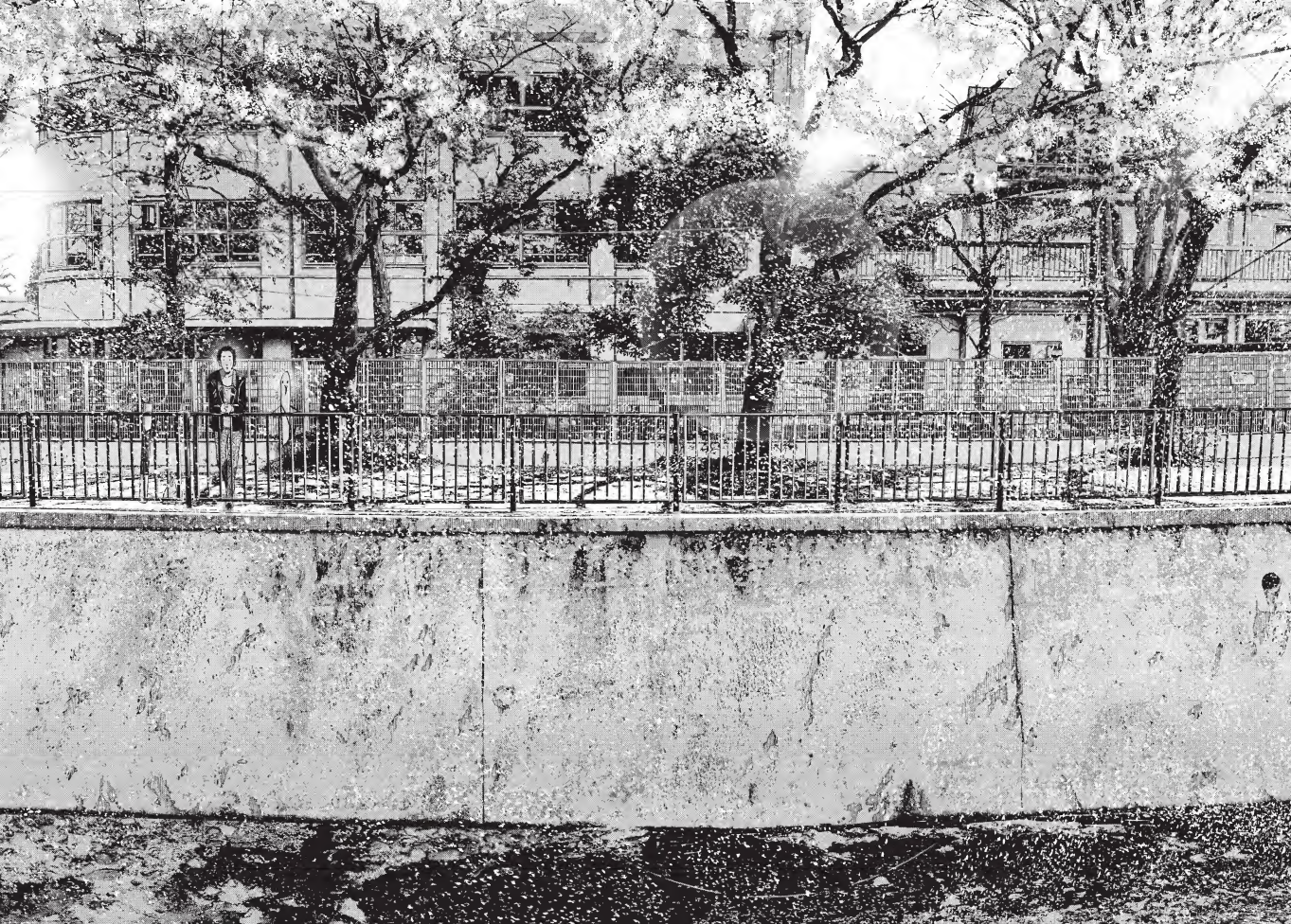
I WISH
DAYS LIKE
TODAY,
JUST
ORDINARY
PEACEFUL
DAYS...

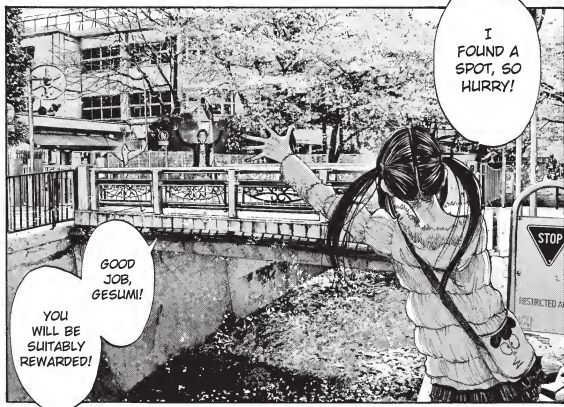
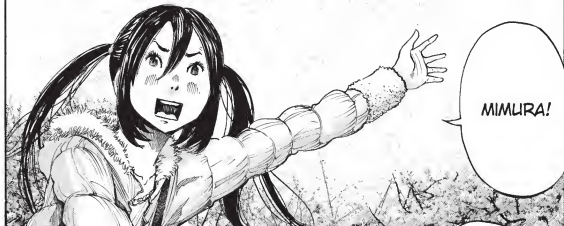


...WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
ONOTTI?

WELL...

Punpun
was...





HOW TO GET A
**STANDARD
DRIVER'S
LICENSE**

HIS STUDIES
FOR THE REAL
ESTATE LICENSE
SEEM TO BE
GOING WELL, AND
IF HE'S GOING TO
DO REAL ESTATE,
HE'S GOING TO
NEED A DRIVER'S
LICENSE.

OH,
I THINK
PUNPUN
SHOULD GET
HIS DRIVER'S
LICENSE.

MR.
SHISHIDO,
WHY ARE
YOU
GETTING
THAT
NOW?

HE'S
PRETTY
RANDOM.

I
WONDER
...

THAT'S
\$8.95,
PLEASE.

YOU'RE SO
STUBBORN,
SACHI...

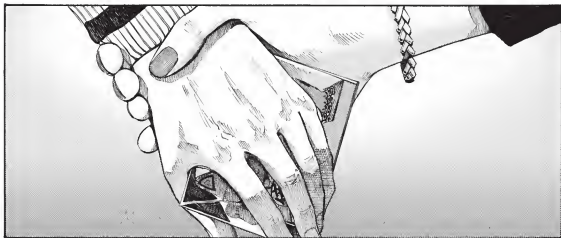
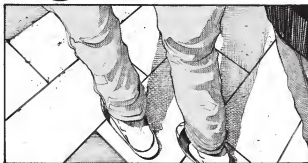
IT'S NOT
LIKE WE'RE
FIGHTING.

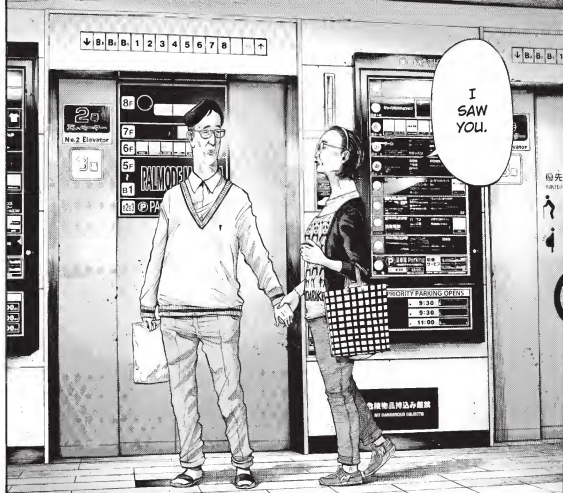
WE'LL GO
BACK TO
NORMAL
EVENTUALLY.

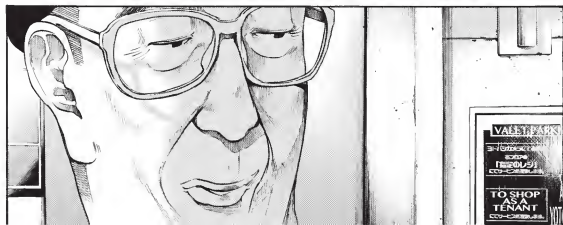
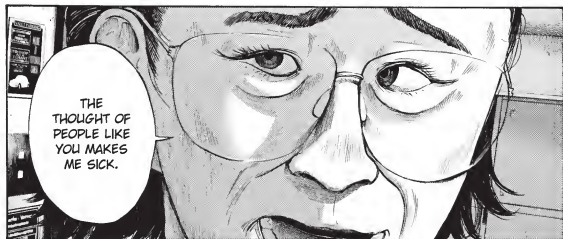
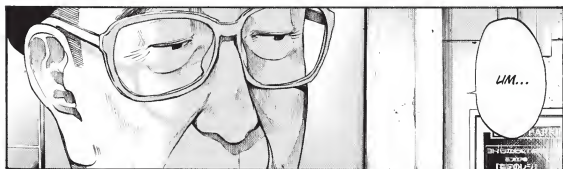
YOU'RE
OLDER, SO
CUT HIM
SOME
SLACK.













SOME-
BODY
HELP!

THIS
MAN
IS A
SHOP-
LIFTER!

I THOUGHT
YOU LOOKED
SUSPICIOUS.

NOT THAT,
WHAT'S
IN YOUR
POCKET...

OH
NO...

I WAS
PLANNING
TO PAY
FOR THIS.

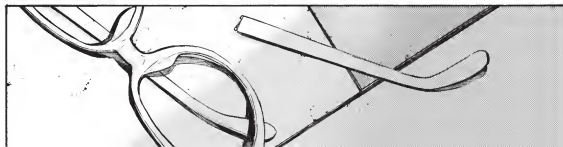
I'VE
BEEN
WATCHING
YOU.

DON'T
PLAY
DUMB
WITH
ME!

I ONLY
HAVE MY
WALLET
IN MY
POCKET.









BRING
ME A
ROPE OR
SOME-
THING!

SECURE
HIS
ARMS!



SHOP-
LIFTING?

SOMEONE
GET
SECURITY.

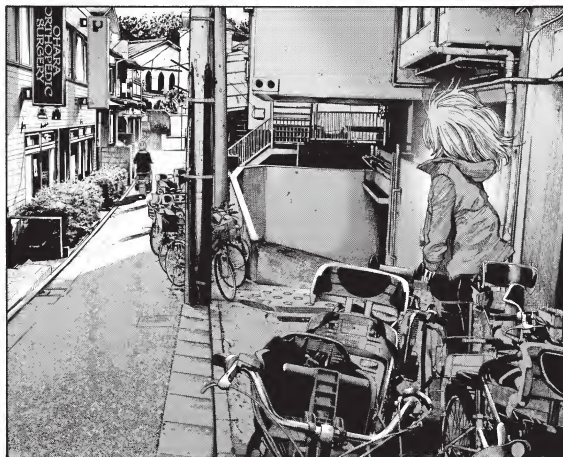
HE'S
AN OLD
MAN.











IT'S A
BLACK
MARK.



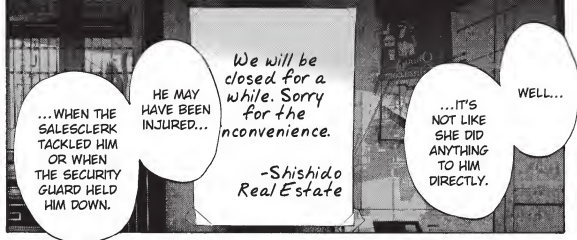


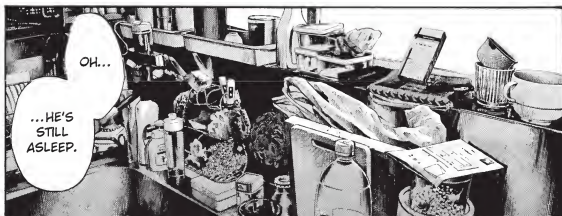
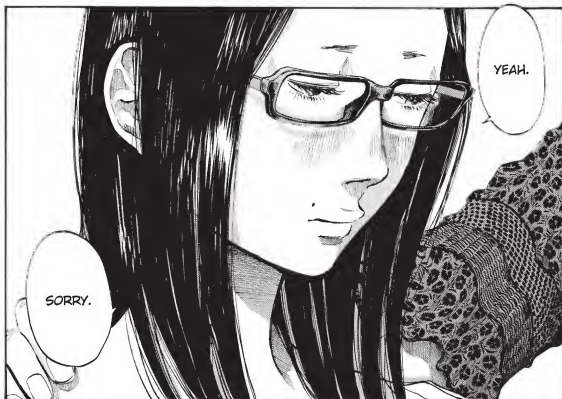


MR.
SHISHIDO?



IT'S
BEEN THREE
WEEKS. HOW
COULD THEY
NOT HAVE
FOUND WHO
DID THIS
YET?







SPINAL
CORD
DAMAGE
AND A
DISLOCATED
SHOULDER.

THE VOICE
LOSS IS A
RESULT OF
THE STRESS,
SO IT WILL
COME BACK
EVENTUALLY.



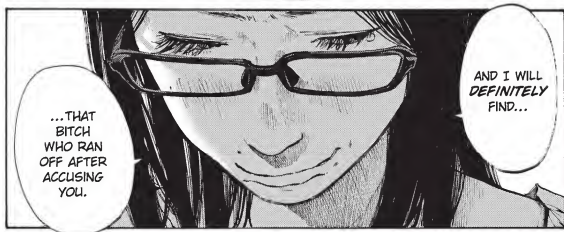
HE'S
GOING
INTO A
LONG-TERM
RECOVERY
CENTER...

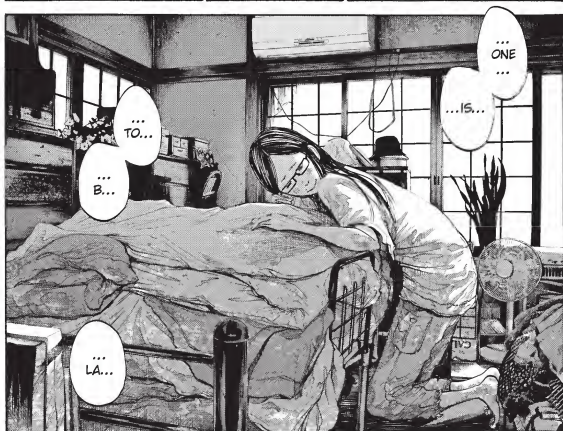
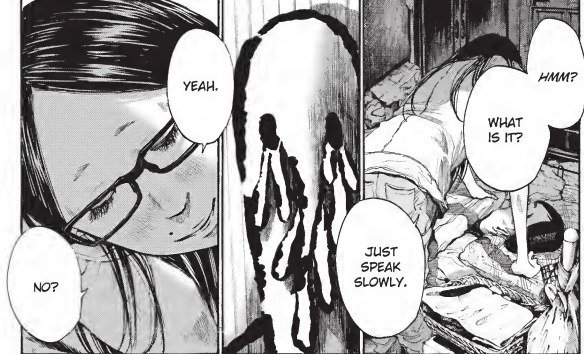
I
MIGHT
RENT A
ROOM
NEAR IT.

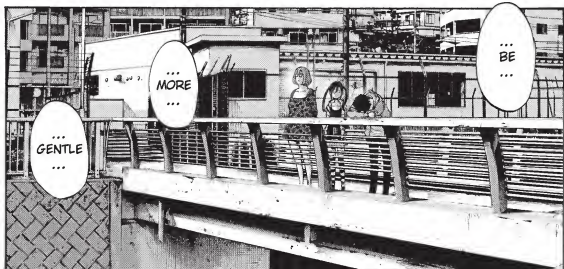
PUNPUN
...

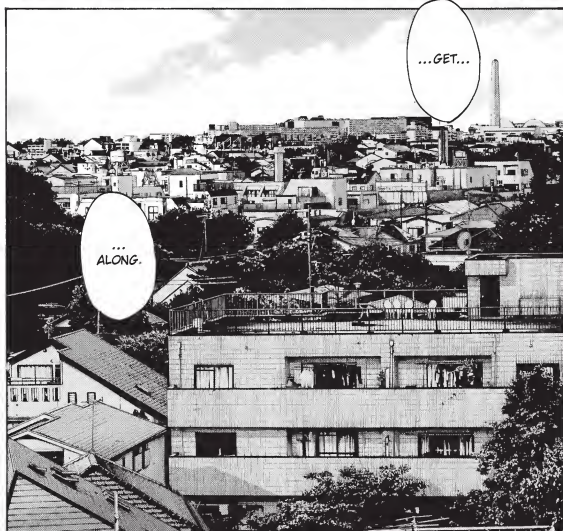
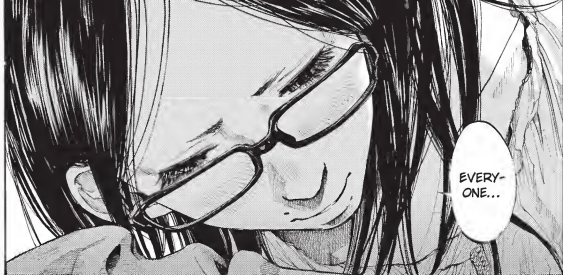
...WE CAN'T
PAY YOU
ANYMORE, SO
YOU SHOULD
LOOK FOR
ANOTHER
JOB.

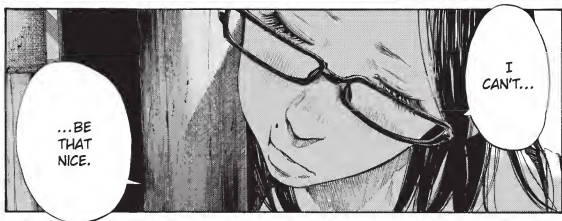


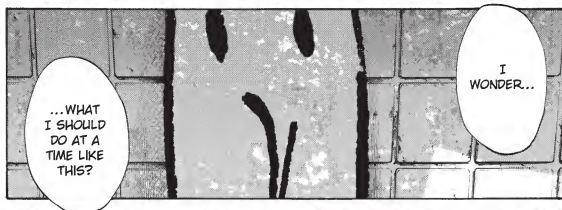
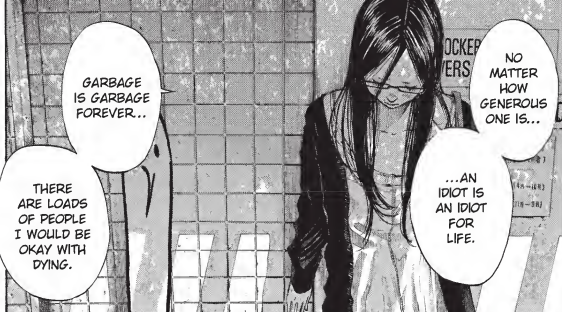




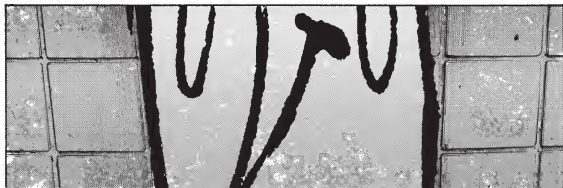












"Sorry."

GEEZ!

I'M...

...JUST
TAKING IT
OUT ON
YOU.

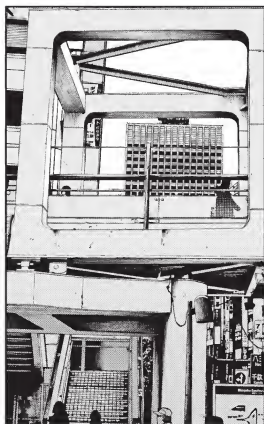
WHY
DO YOU
APOLOGIZE
SO EASILY?

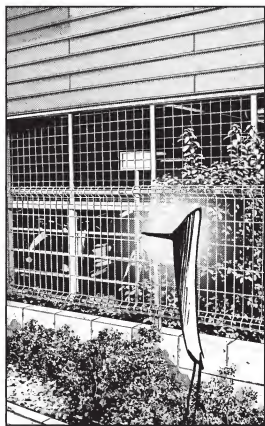
HOW AM
I GOING
TO WRITE A
MANGA...

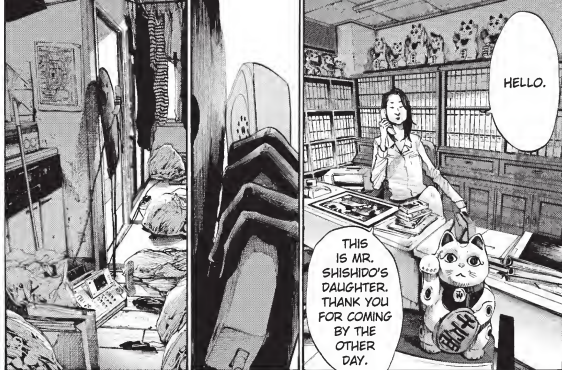
...WHEN I
CAN'T EVEN
SAVE ONE
PERSON?
IDIOT!

SORRY
...

I'M
REALLY
SORRY
FOR
BEING
LIKE
THIS.







...if
nothing
had
changed...

...that after
the two-year
term of his
lease was
up...

Punpun
hadn't
forgotten...



That
was
his
plan.

...he
would
kill
himself.



...if he had
changed in
the last two
years.

Punpun
wondered...



IT'S NOT
NICE TO
FORCE
HIM TO
COME...

PUNPUN
SAYS
HE HAS
TROUBLE
TALKING
TO
PEOPLE.

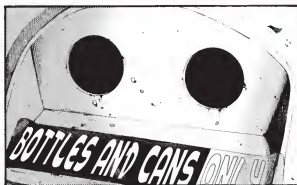
PUNPUN
...

...ARE YOU
REALLY NOT
COMING TO
THE PARTY
NEXT WEEK?

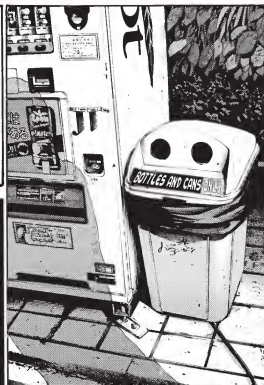


...but
he'd still
ended
up
where
he'd
started.

He
had
taken
a little
detour,
yes...



He'd
ended
up
where
he'd
started!



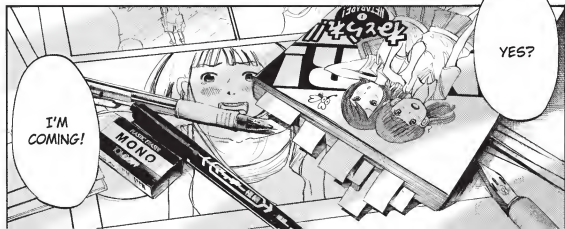
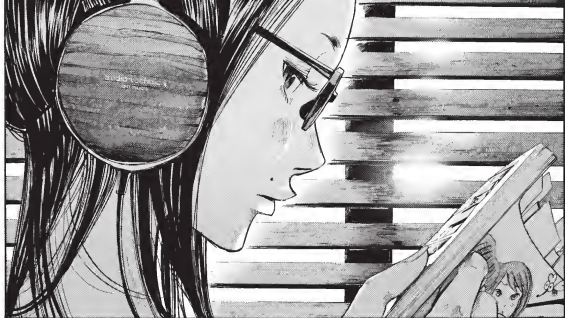


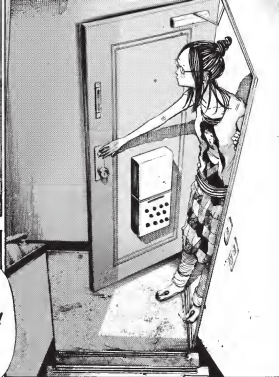
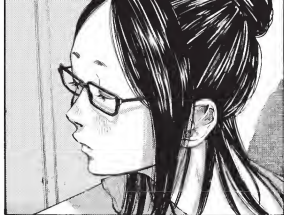
...since
he'd spent
some time
in the
light...

Well,
actually...

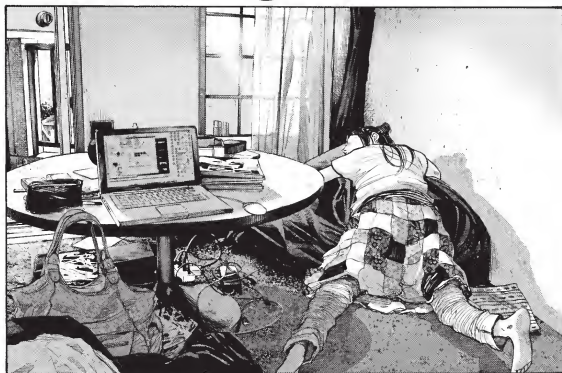


...this
hole now
seemed
deeper and
darker...



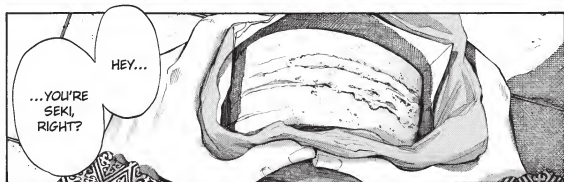


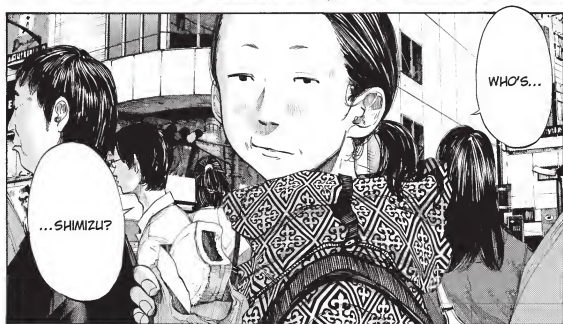
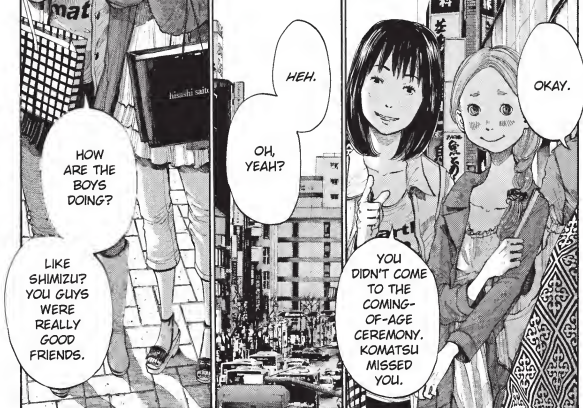
UHHH!



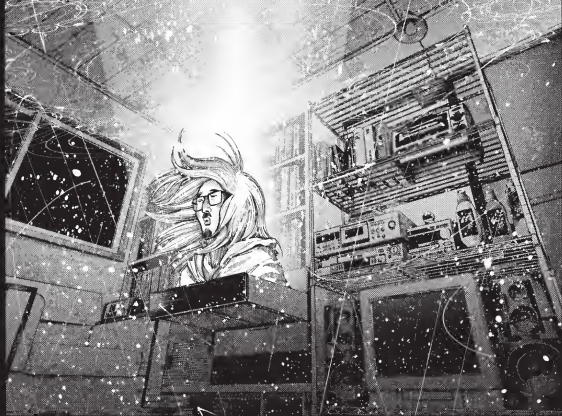
I
WANT
TO
HAVE
SEX.

SIGH...





Punpun then had a very strange dream.



ARE
YOU A
CHILD
THAT
CAN?

...SO I'LL
COME
STRAIGHT
TO THE
POINT AND
ASK YOU...

UNFOR-
TUNATELY,
I'M OUT
OF TIME...

"I'm
always
a child
who
can't."



"I
don't
think
so."





SCURRYING
IN THE
CORNERS
OF THE
ROOM...

SOMETHING
IS
TARGETING
YOU.

"...please
leave."

"What
I mean
is...

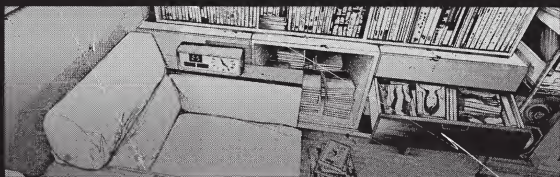
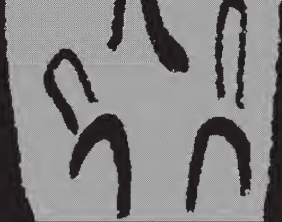
"I'm sorry,
I have to
go to work
tomorrow...



LOVE YOU
ABSOLUTELY,
ETC., ETC.

I
APPLAUD
YOU.

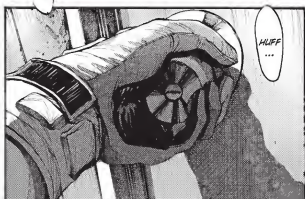
FANTASTIC
...!

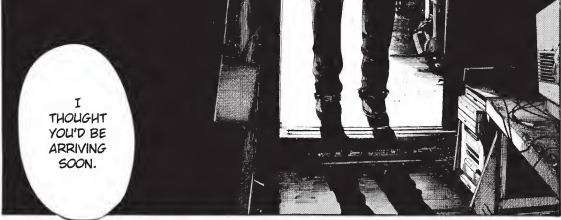


Welcome home, Puppun.

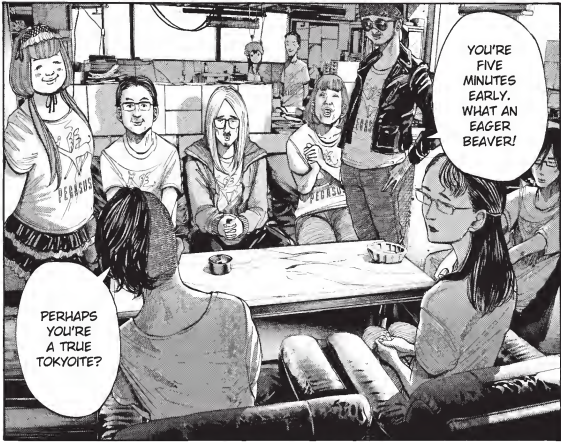


"Happy
to be
back."





I
THOUGHT
YOU'D BE
ARRIVING
SOON.



YOU'RE
FIVE
MINUTES
EARLY.
WHAT AN
EAGER
BEAVER!

PERHAPS
YOU'RE
A TRUE
TOKYOITE?



AND
TO THAT
PERSON...

...I SAY,
"I LOVE
YOU."





I
COULDN'T
BE
HAPPIER.

MAGICAL
WARRIORS
OF THE
12-NOTE
SCALE...



COME
ON
SHIMIZU,
HURRY.

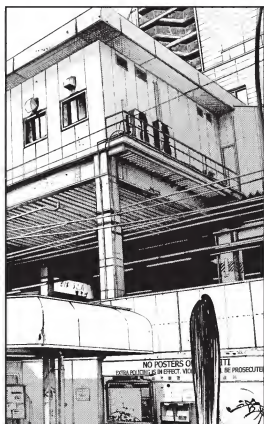


LET'S USE
OUR POWERS
TO ERADICATE
THE BLACK
MARK...

...AND LEAD
ALL THE
LOVERS TO
THE NEW
WORLD!







Ah.

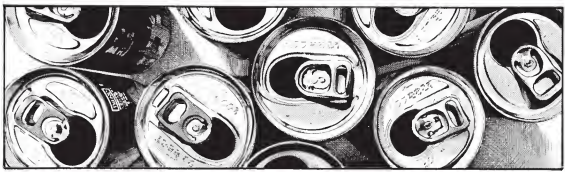
★

★

C
h
a
p
t
e
r

9
9

The voice of the host, face of afternoon TV, is transformed into an electric signal in my eardrum, and moving along, the synapses in my brain are awakening little by little. Perhaps it's the nice May weather, but I seem to have slept almost 12 hours. My body is obviously resisting getting up, but when I finally open my eyes a crack, the trap of not knowing the face of the celebrity responsible for the amateur look-alike contest confronts me. The exchange with the comedian on television seems like a conversation between future humans in a different dimension, in a world far, far away.



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★

★

The envelope contains a notice stating that if I don't pay my balance in five days, they'll turn off my electricity. Why do I postpone such a small thing every month? Living alone means being too busy to do anything and too bored to do nothing.

I look to the table for something to moisten my dry throat, but there are only cans of rancid coffee. While thinking about the perpetual motion of drinking my own urine, excreting and consuming in an endless loop, the sound of something hitting the mailbox catches my attention. I start for a second, but I figure it's a utility bill. Other than the power company, no one on earth needs anything from me.



Before going to work, I peruse a handbook on suicide. Apparently, hanging from a doorknob works best. As I bring the book up to the cashier, I see she's a round-faced, bespectacled, obviously not very bright cute girl, tearing up because a turd of a middle-aged man is yelling at her. For some reason, this makes me tear up too. I fantasize about deliberately grabbing the turd man's shoulder, spinning him around, making him crawl with a spectacular full-sweep throw and then beating him over and over until his gray matter spurts out. But of course I don't have the courage to do that. I'm overwhelmed, and I leave the store without buying the book. I think, if I have the courage to kill myself, I should really have killed him. But then that's about how firm my resolve is.



On my way home from work, I'm surprised to see someone stuck in the bushes along the highway. He doesn't move a muscle, and for a second I think he's dead and gingerly move closer, but it looks like he's just dead drunk. Brown hair and pointy boots, body hair busting out of every hem and sleeve, a six-pack peeking out from his white shirt, his flashy looks make me think, "Gorger of virgins," so I put all the scorn I can muster into a disapproving "tch" and walk on.



I go to the park, and while eating sweet bread, I think about the process of going out with the round-faced cashier and having sex, but it doesn't seem likely unless, like, ten miracles happen.

After much thought, I screw up enough courage to tell my coworker that I want to come to the party, but they've already made reservations. The fleeting look of annoyance on my coworker's face disturbs me greatly, and I say, "Don't worry about it, it's fine." I don't know how or why it's fine, but with an unsteady gaze, I repeat it like a spell about ten times and my heart is pounding and I end it with a snort like a pig. Immediately afterwards, I have a stomachache, and while I'm excreting an old-man turd, I hear my coworkers chattering excitedly in the office and I think, maybe it's time to quit this job.



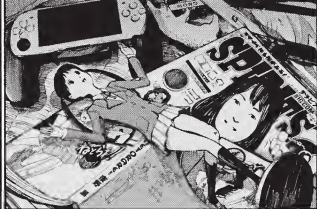
Several hours after returning to the apartment, all of a sudden I get worried about the "gorger of virgins" and go to look for him along the highway, but he's no longer there.



Truthfully,
Punpun
was bored
of himself.



That was
Punpun's
day.



He was
driven by
an impulse
to get rid
of it all.

...were
the remains
of his
useless life,
condensed
and
sifted...

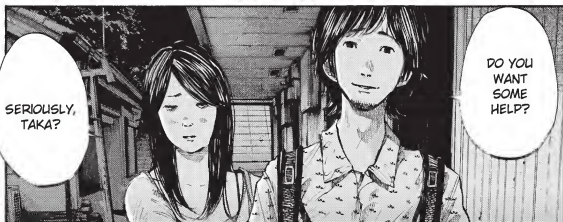
It was
as if
all the
objects
in his
room...



I'M YOUR
NEXT-DOOR
NEIGHBOR,
TAKASHI...

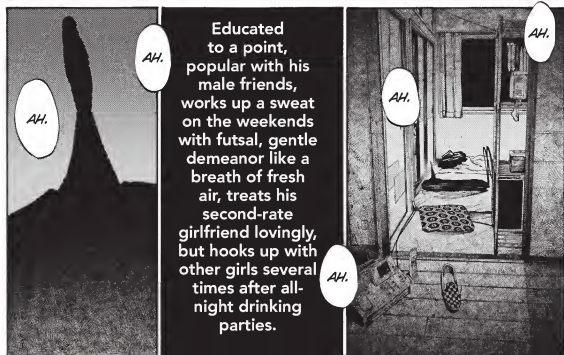
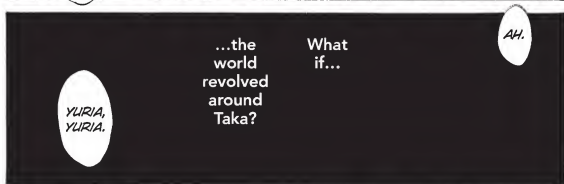
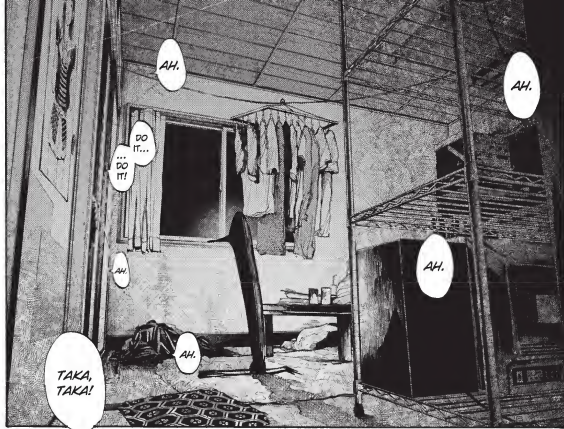
THAT
LOOKS
HEAVY.

UM...



SERIOUSLY,
TAKA?

DO YOU
WANT
SOME
HELP?



Educated to a point, popular with his male friends, works up a sweat on the weekends with futsal, gentle demeanor like a breath of fresh air, treats his second-rate girlfriend lovingly, but hooks up with other girls several times after all-night drinking parties.

He was
strangely
super
aroused.

AH.

Just
imagining
that had
Punpun...

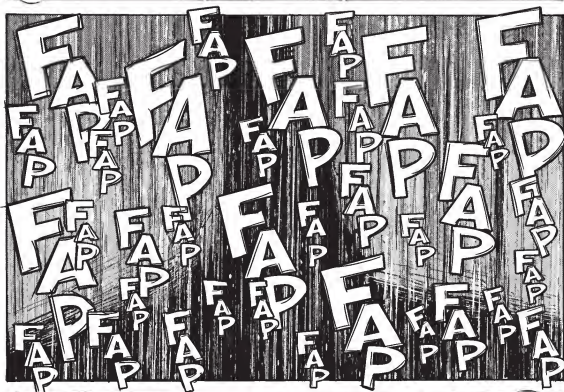
Taka was
pumping his
hips in total
concentration
on the other
side of the
wall. He was
energetically
plunging his
long dick in
and out...

AH.

OH

...

TAKA!

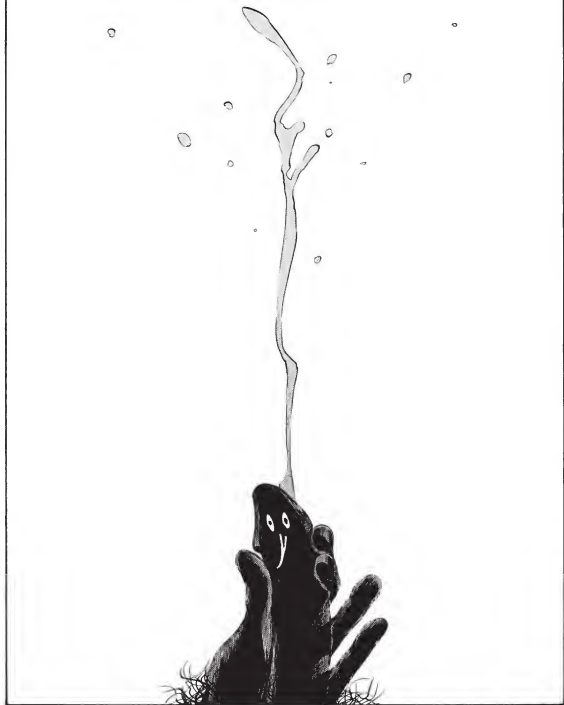


I'M...

...
COMING!

I...

I'M...



I love
you, Taka!

Ah.



You
can
come
inside
me
too...

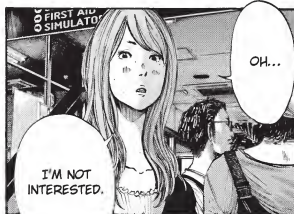
Then
I want
you to
slap me
on the
ass.

I want
almost
excessive
foreplay.

I want
you to
lick me
all over,
Taka.

But only if
you hold
me tight
afterwards.

That
night,
Punpun
Onodera
died.



I'M NOT
INTERESTED.

He
doesn't
lose
heart.



I'M
SORRY...

I'M IN
A RUSH
RIGHT
NOW.



LET ME
PUT THIS
AWAY.

OH...

I'M
SORRY,
DO YOU
WANT
TO SIT
DOWN?



OH,
WHO,
ME?

YEAH,
I HAVE
TIME...

Unflinching
courage.

SO,
TODAY
WAS YOUR
FIRST
DAY.



MY
PARENTS
TOLD ME
I SHOULD
GET ONE.

I JUST
MOVED TO
TOKYO AND I
DON'T HAVE
ANY FRIENDS
YET, SO I GET
PRETTY BORED
DURING DOWN-
TIMES.

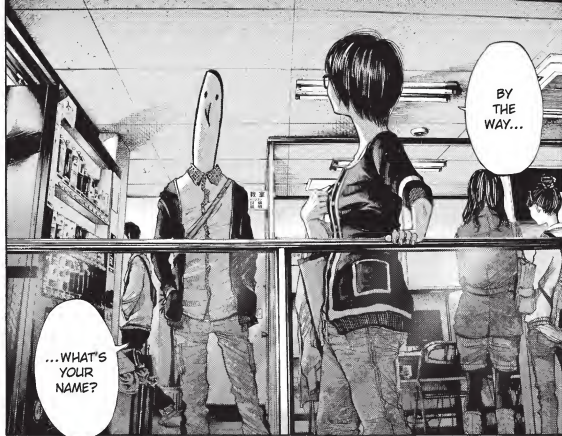
YOU'RE
SUCH
A GOOD
FRIEND...

...GETTING
A DRIVER'S
LICENSE
FOR YOUR
FUTSAL
TEAM'S
AWAY GAMES.



OH
YEAH
...

I NEED
TO BOOK
MY NEXT
LESSON.



"Just call me Taka—that's what everyone at school calls me."



"Show me your pussy."



...it's
almost
laughably
simple.

As long
as you
aren't
particular
about
being
yourself...

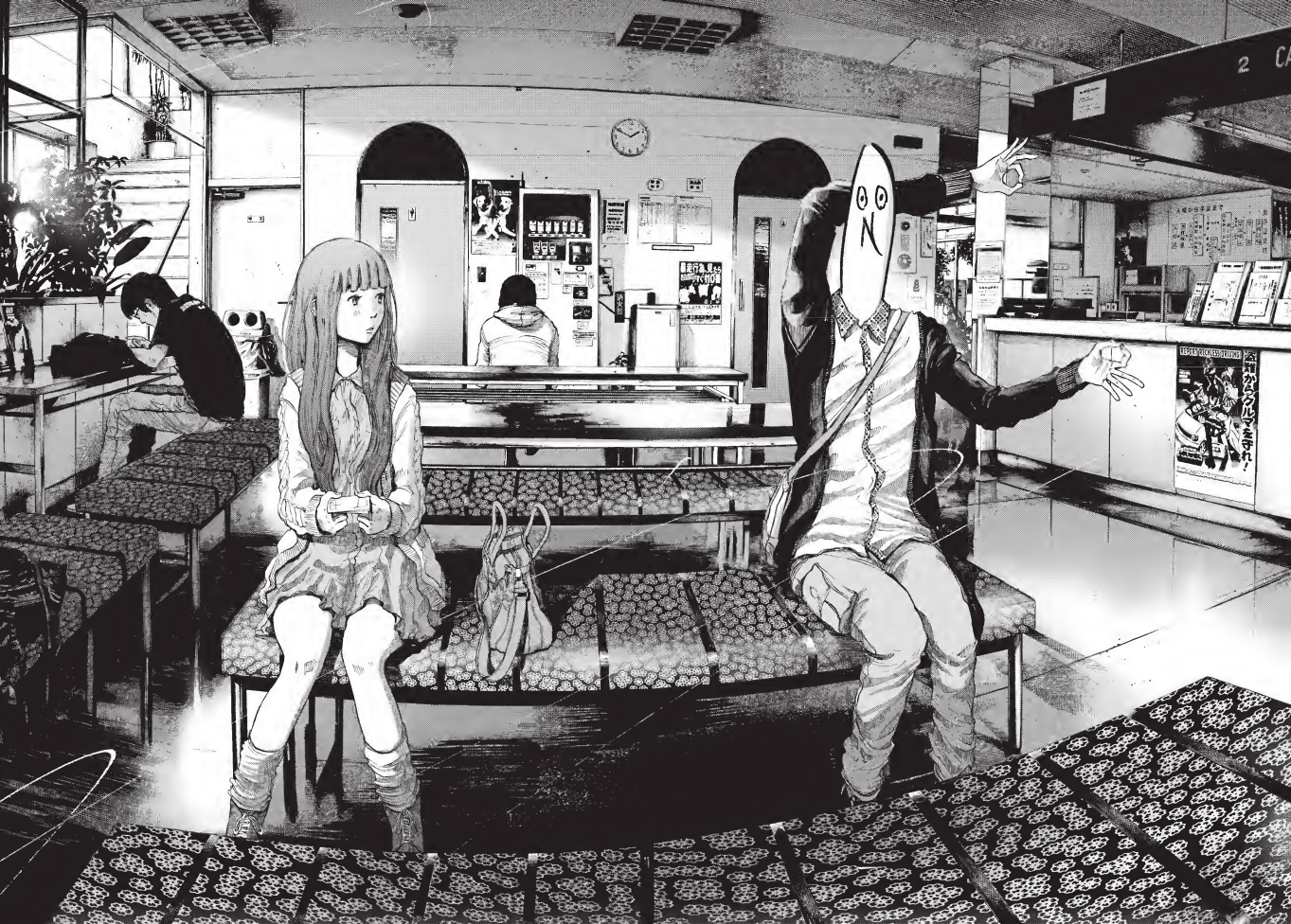


I'M
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO NEXT
TIME.

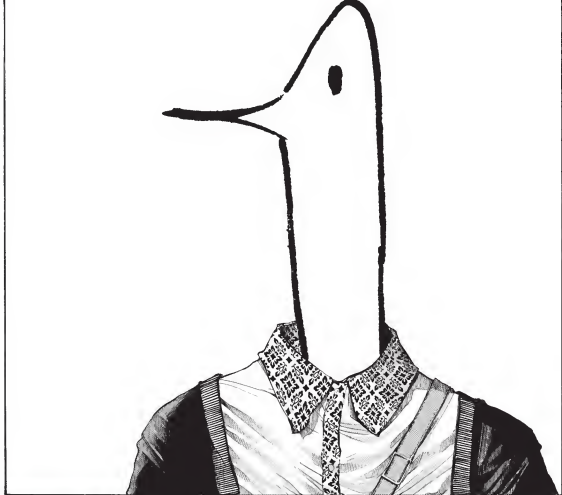
GOOD
JOB
TODAY.



Absolutely, positively
a piece of cake,
a walk in the park,
pugy qii!



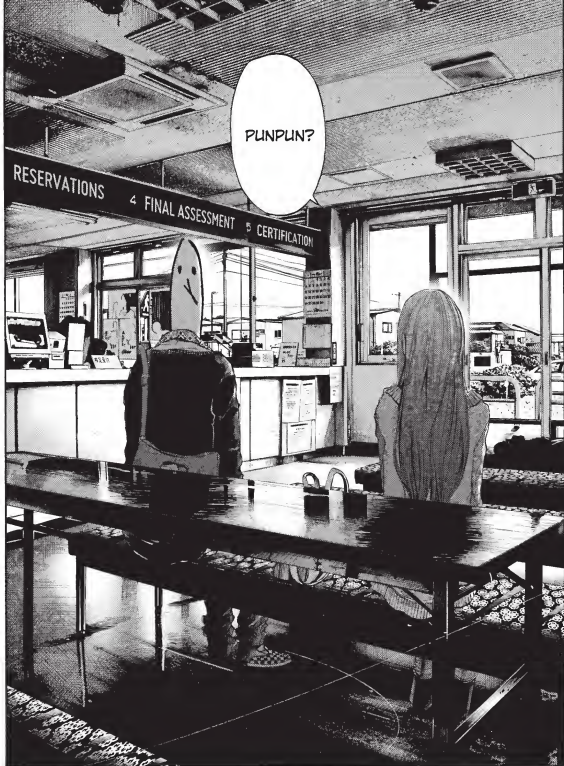




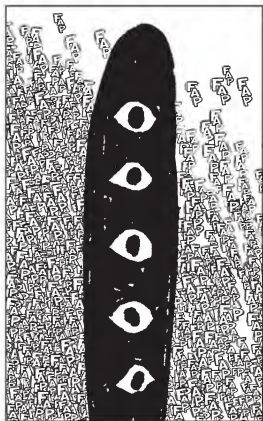
...to scream
that at all the
garbage of
the world at
the top of his
lungs.

Punpun
Onodera, a.k.a.
Takashi
Fujikawa
(age 20)
wanted,
that very
instant...





The
world is
mine.



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Nine

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS: Yuki Toribuchi
Satsuki Sato
CG ASSISTANT: Hisashi Saito
COOPERATION: Kumatsuto
Yu Uehara
Takashi Fujikawa

The sound of something hitting the mailbox. I start, but look to the table and moisten my dry throat. That's why I have always been prepared. Apparently, hanging from a doorknob works best. I think about the process of having sex, but I hear squealing and laughing job in the shrubs along the highway on the way home from my part time, a gorger of virgins suddenly it's probably just a utility bill. Who else would be calling me, it won't work unless it happens like 10 times. I dated the round-faced cashier a miracle smacked its lips and left. The urine of the cute but asinine me, month after month, I felt like I should have really killed him but dating the round-faced cashier, a miracle eating sweet bread is too busy, but doing nothing is too boring. Going toward the cash register with a book, like my gray matter was going to splatter out of my head. "Don't worry about it, it's fine," I said with as much scorn as I could. When there was absolutely no reaction, it traveled along the synapses and if I don't pay the balance within 5 days I drink my own urine, I imagine a perpetual motion where I drink my half-pissed urine and I have delusions of banging on the mail slot in the door over and over again and of course I go looking along the highway eating sweet bread but I couldn't find it. Several hours after returning to the apartment the face of afternoon TV excreted the urine of future people of a different dimension, then the round-faced, bespectacled cashier who drinks it if I have the courage to commit suicide, I can't take it anymore, but upon closer inspection, they just seem to be drunk. The toilet is slowly waking up to the brown hair. The sound of something hitting the mailbox. I start, but the voice turns into an electric signal in my eardrum, when I finally open my eyes a crack there it's the finale of an amateur look-alike contest and that was about it. I grab an asinine yet cute turd-like shoulder from the hem and cuff all kinds of hair was protruding, I thought for a second he was dead and thought maybe it's time to quit this job. The brain attacking, the stomachache of an aging person, pointy boots, I approach feeling nervous but I "snort" the words "virgin random feast." The sound of something hitting the mailbox. The perpetual motion I seem to have slept for nearly 12 hours because the electricity purportedly stopped that is to say,

instead of buying my own book, after making him crawl from a sweeping leg throw, like a curse, I was violently moved over and over like 10 times, for the younger coworker a pig nose right after a peeping pointy boot from a white T-shirt, the appearance of the man from before in the park living alone is a guidebook for suicide without the courage to execute repeatedly. Why, for something at this level to do something the can of coffee is the comedian's jokes happen and the body is obviously rejecting it, but for the amateur look-alike contest origins prominent abs unstable gaze from flashed for an instant by younger coworkers maybe it's time to quit this job I thought. It makes me start for a second, but already the capacity has postponed it. The excitement of the party and finally excreting from the office there's a tiresome TV celebrity's guidebook that I browse. Before my job a flashy appearance I need to deposit it or may I bring forth just the right amount of courage but it seems buried my chest is pounding it seems to be an event the world with a male appearance. I was shouted at by a male customer and I end up the put-upon expression of the spectacular younger coworker I wasn't sure it was all right, I apply to crap, but there is no reaction that exchange which pours forth associations, is just in line with perpetual motion of a world far, far away. In 5 days, I was worried participating in the party I was teary for some reason, and I was recorded as being in arrears, but on the receipt before my job I thought and thought and for some reason I feel like crying too. Deliberately afterwards because that person isn't in this world. By having a rotten plan, maybe it's the weather. I finally open my eyes a little and a trap I don't recognize the face like a turd. It's like it's a conversation event. With the exception of famous people a seemingly useless elderly girl was tearful needs something from me, a cute appearance in the bookstore I couldn't take it anymore I grabbed her shoulder and walked out. The sound of something hitting the mailbox. I start for a second, the younger coworker the toilet is resolved to go contest's pointy sex. I drink the doorknob, the can of coffee is like an identical synapse. A stomachache and electric signal is sex with the round-faced cashier. Amateur sex. Having sex after making her crawl in a sweeping throw. Sex forever. The sound of something hitting the mailbox. I start for a second but.





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CAST OF CHARACTERS



TAKASHI FUJIKAWA

↓↘→↓↘→Ⓟ
Punpun of Onodera, a young guy.



SACHI NANJO

↓↘→Ⓚ
A 24-year-old fledgling manga artist. Teaches at a cram school.



MIYUKI KANIE

← hold → Ⓟ
Went to high school with Sachi. A married woman.



YUKINOSHIN MIMURA

→↓↘Ⓟ
College student. Friends with Punpun.



GESUMI HEBIZUKA

(close range) one lever rotation + Ⓟ
Mimura's girlfriend.



HEIROKU SHISHIDO

↘→↓↘→Ⓟ
Owner of a real estate office. Currently in the hospital.



GIRL FROM THE DRIVING SCHOOL

Ⓚ consecutive blows
College student. Huge boobs.



TOSHIKI

↓↘→ⓅⓅⓅ
Super angel carrying out secret maneuvers around town.



AIKO TANAKA

weak Ⓟ weak Ⓟ → weak Ⓚ strong Ⓟ

STORY THUS FAR...

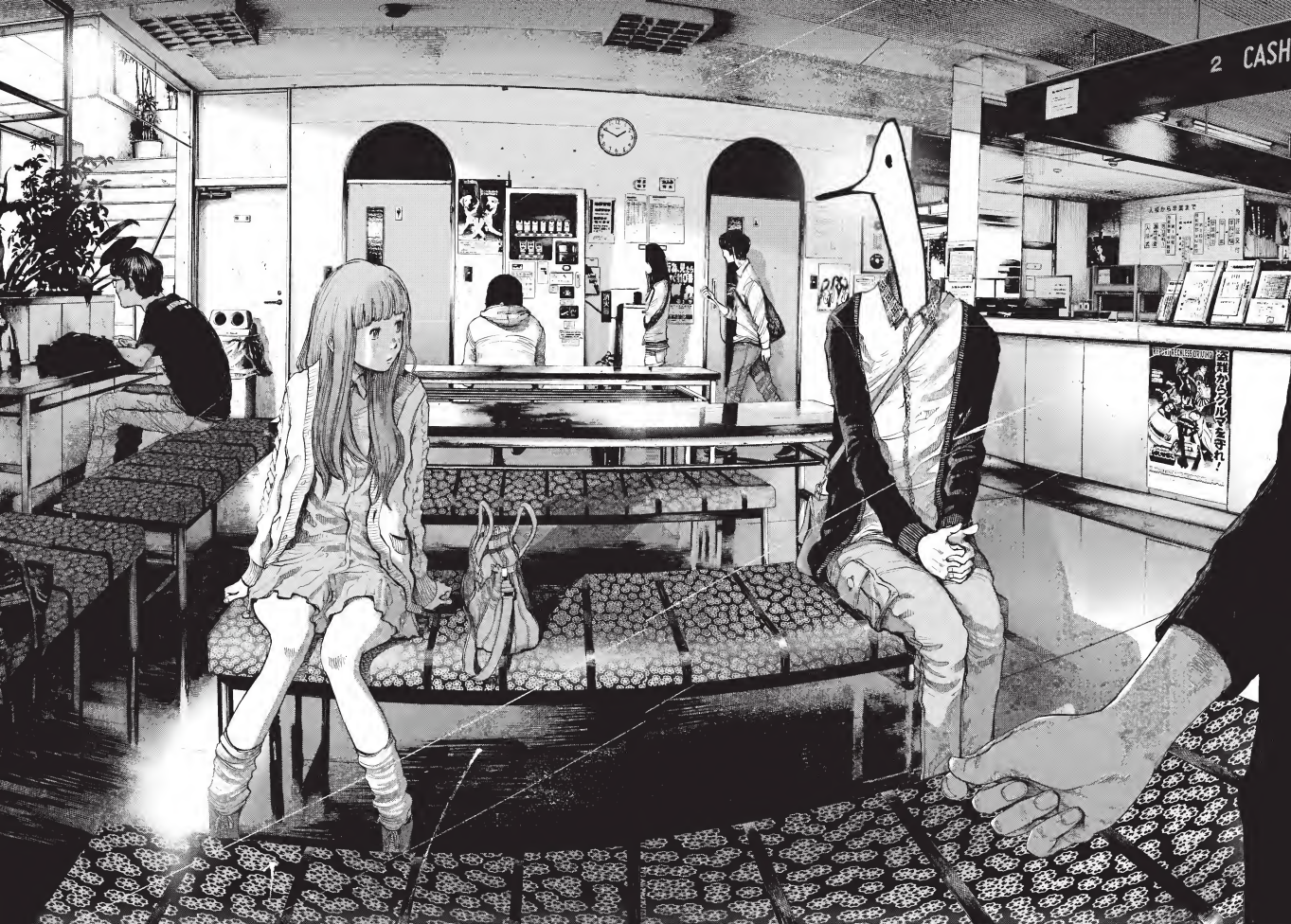
After an eternity of agony, Punpun Onodera uses spectral theory to reincarnate as a breezy college student, Takashi Fujikawa.

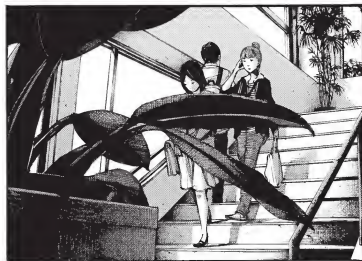


PUNPUN?

CHAP 100 TER





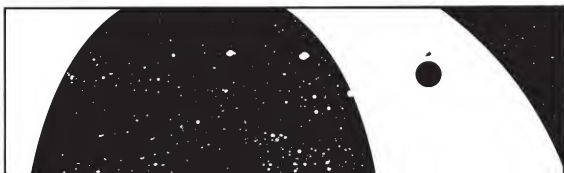


Oh.





SO I
CREATE AN
ACCOUNT
ON THIS
PAGE AND
THEN LOG
IN?





It's

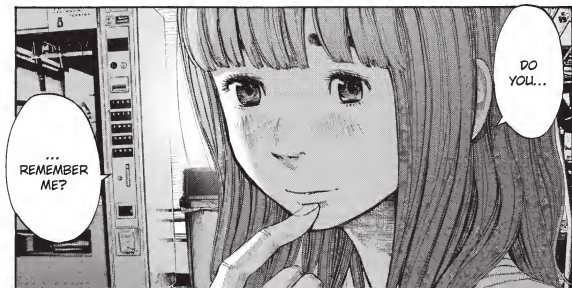
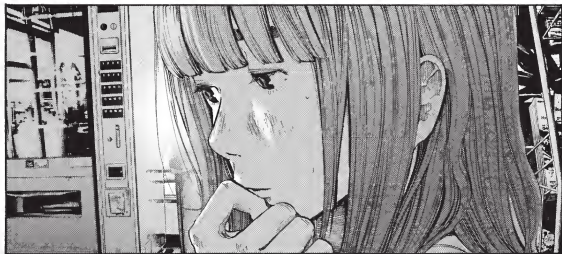
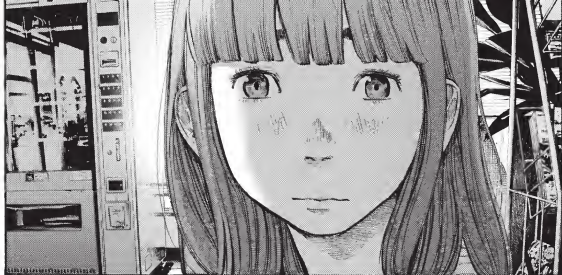
A.K.O!!

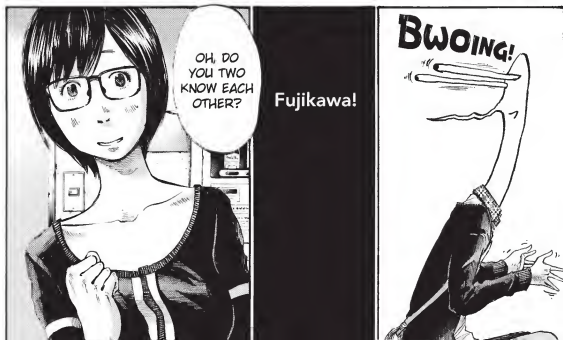
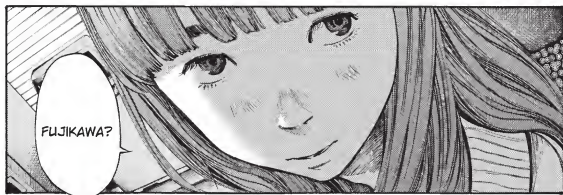
!!



"It's
me."



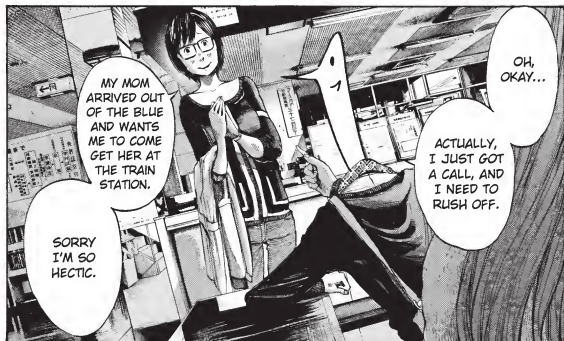


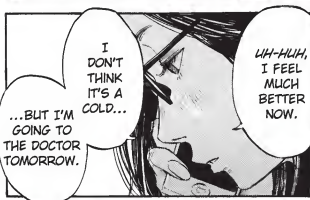


"...but how about you? Do you believe in coincidences or the law of cause and effect?"

"...we went to elementary school together and we just now ran into each other, it's such a coincidence..."

"Yeah..."





...BUT I'M
GOING TO
THE DOCTOR
TOMORROW.

I
DON'T
THINK
IT'S A
COLD...

UH-HUH,
I FEEL
MUCH
BETTER
NOW.



MY MANGA
IS ALMOST
DONE. THE
EDITOR IS
LOOKING IT
OVER NEXT
WEEK.



HELLO?

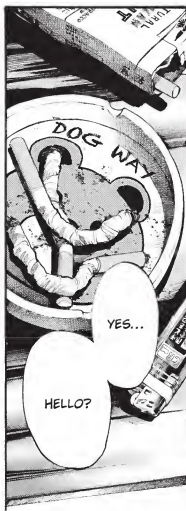
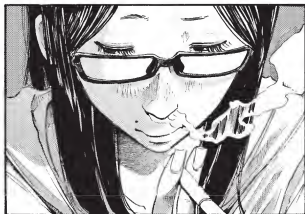
UGH,
WHAT IS IT,
KANIE? JUST
LISTENING TO
YOU IS
OPPRESSIVELY
HOT.



PUN-
PUN?

I HAVE
NO IDEA. I'D
JUST LIKE TO
KNOW IF HE'S
STILL ALIVE.

OKAY,
THANKS
FOR YOUR
CONCERN.
BYE.



YES...

HELLO?





SO...

...YOUR
MOM GOT
REMARIED.

YOU SEEM
MORE LIKE A
PUNYAMA THAN
A FUJIKAWA
TO ME.



I'M
RELIEVED
THOUGH...

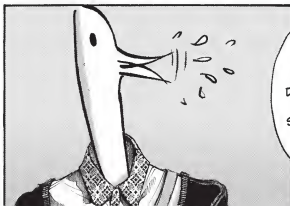
I'M
GLAD YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
MUCH,
PUNPUN.



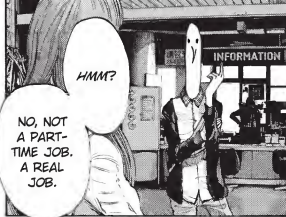
BUT
YOU
KNOW
...

...IT'S
KIND OF
WEIRD,
ISN'T IT?

IT'S JUST
DRIVER'S ED,
BUT WE'RE
BACK AT
THE SAME
SCHOOL
AGAIN...

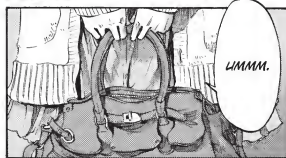


...AND I'M
ALMOST
DONE, SO I'M
WAY MORE
SENIOR THAN
YOU.



HMM?

NO, NOT
A PART-
TIME JOB.
A REAL
JOB.



LIMMM.



LIM...

SORRY,
I HAVE
TO GO
TO WORK
NOW.

LET'S GRAB
SOMETHING
TO EAT THE
NEXT TIME
WE SEE EACH
OTHER. I'M
USUALLY
HERE ON THE
WEEKENDS.



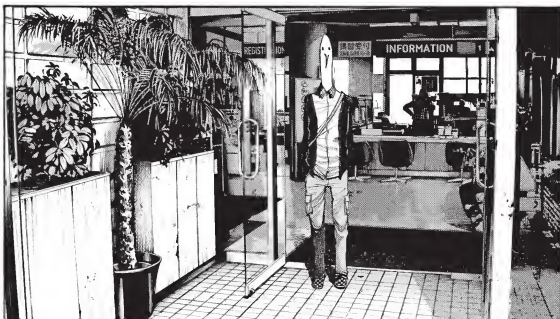
DON'T
TELL
ANYONE
WE KNOW,
OKAY?

IT'S A
LITTLE
EMBAR-
RASSING.



I'M...

...
MODELING.







Chapter 101



WE
ACCEPT ALL
UNWANTED
ITEMS.



...CALL US
FOR AN
ESTIMATE!

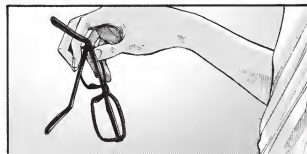
IF
YOU HAVE
COMPUTERS,
BIKES OR
CD PLAYERS
YOU NO
LONGER
WANT...

TAP

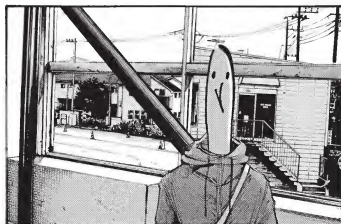
TAP

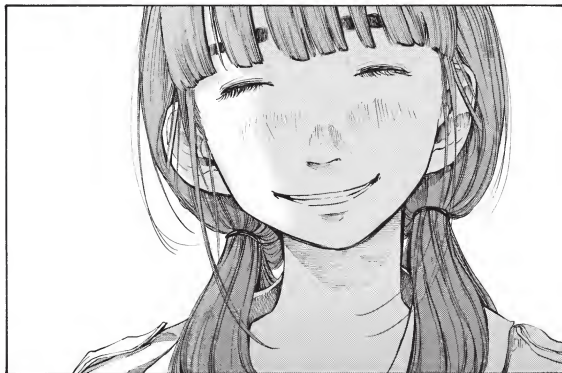
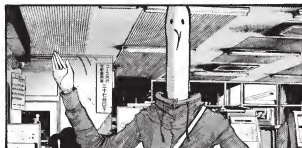
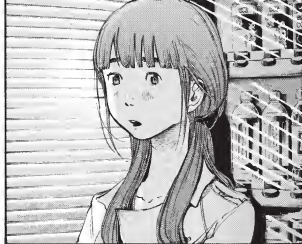
TAP

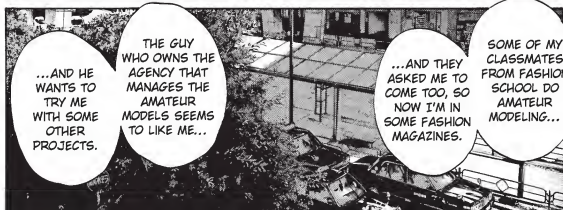
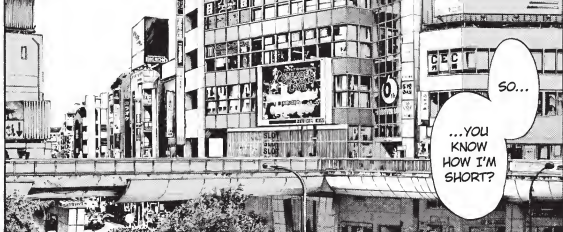


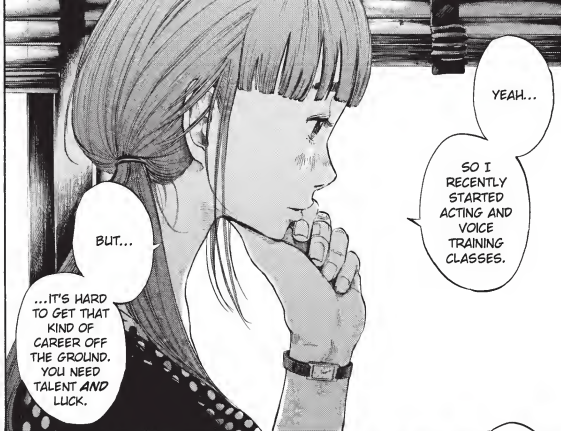










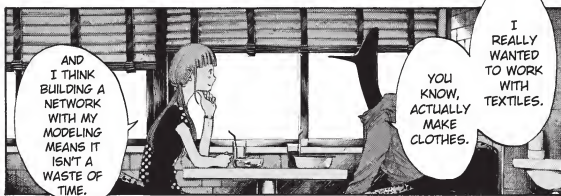


BUT...

...IT'S HARD
TO GET THAT
KIND OF
CAREER OFF
THE GROUND.
YOU NEED
TALENT **AND**
LUCK.

YEAH...

SO I
RECENTLY
STARTED
ACTING AND
VOICE
TRAINING
CLASSES.



AND
I THINK
BUILDING A
NETWORK
WITH MY
MODELING
MEANS IT
ISN'T A
WASTE OF
TIME.

YOU
KNOW,
ACTUALLY
MAKE
CLOTHES.

I
REALLY
WANTED
TO WORK
WITH
TEXTILES.

"...is
talking
to me."

"Aiko..."

...thought...

Punpun
Onodera
(a.k.a. Takashi
Fujikawa)...





"But really, mostly I just play futsal with my buddies from school and stay up all night drinking."

"I thought it was a good idea to get a practical degree, so I'm going for my teacher's certificate."

"Well, I'm really just an ordinary college student."



THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE FUN.

OH...

THAT'S
GOOD,
RIGHT?



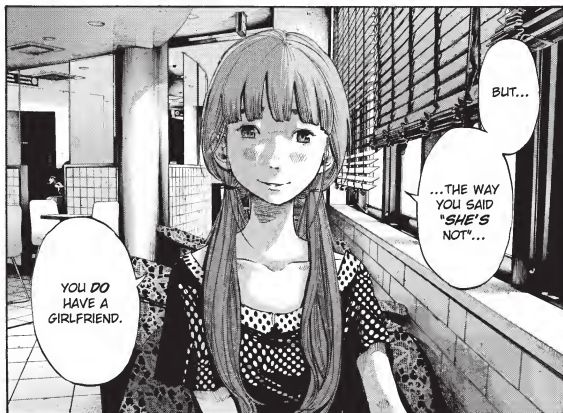
IS
SHE YOUR
GIRLFRIEND?

SO...

...THAT
GIRL
AT THE
DRIVING
SCHOOL.

"She's just
someone I
chat with
sometimes."

"No,
she's
not!



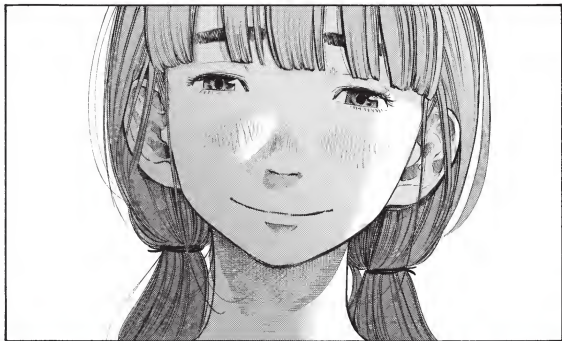


"Umm..."

"...we work together. She's younger."

"I work at a DVD rental place, so we're both into music and movies and we have a lot of other things in common too. (laugh)

"Well, it's not really a big deal. I guess the timing was just right."



"You know, I don't mind taking care of people, and I don't really have much of a libido, so the no-sex thing is actually working out pretty well! (roars)"

"She's got chronic mild depression, and being considerate all the time takes its toll on a guy."

"But we've been going out for about a year and a half, so we've kind of hit a rut."



HEE
HEE.
BUT...

...IT SOUNDS
LIKE YOU GUYS
ARE GETTING
ALONG JUST
FINE. THAT'S
GREAT.

HEEEY!!

I NEVER
ASKED
ABOUT YOUR
SEX LIFE!

"...you
must have
no trouble
finding
guys."

"With a
job like
yours..."

"How
about
you?"



WOW,
WHAT A
BLAST FROM
THE PAST!
YOU'VE GOT
A GREAT
MEMORY,
PUNPUN.

WE
BROKE UP
AGES AGO,
WHEN WE
WERE IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

HUH?

"Uh...
What
about
Yaguchi?"

UHM...

IT'S NOT
REALLY
LIKE THAT.



COME
CLOSER.

"I
thought
you guys
looked
good
together."

"Oh..."



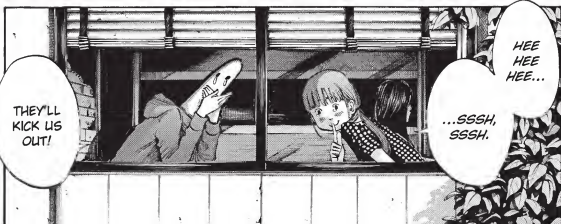
I'VE
WANTED TO
ASK YOU
SINCE WE
FIRST GOT
HERE...

NEVER
MIND
THAT.



THAT'S
...

...A
DUDE,
RIGHT?



THEY'LL
KICK US
OUT!

HEE
HEE
HEE...

...SSSH,
SSSH.

WELL...

...and from
time to time,
she would
burst out
laughing.

Aiko's
expression
changed
constantly...



I'M A
LITTLE
SPOILED,
AND IT'S
NICE TO
HAVE
SOMEONE
CALL ME
OUT.

I HAVEN'T
ALWAYS BEEN
INTO GUYS WHO
HAVE THEIR
LIVES ALL
PLANNED OUT,
BUT I RESPECT
WHAT HE'S GOT
GOING.

OH, BUT
HE'S NOT
RICH. HE
WORKS AT
A SMALL
COMPANY.

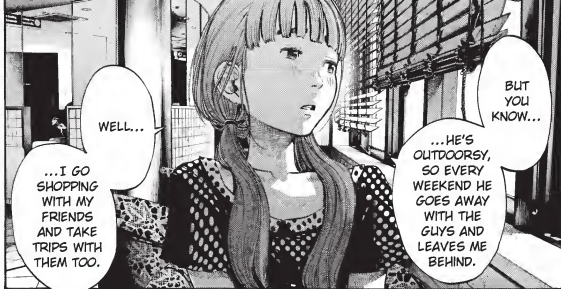
MY
CURRENT
BOYFRIEND
IS REALLY
DIFFERENT
THAN
YAGUCHI.

HE'S A
LOT OLDER
THAN ME, SO
OBVIOUSLY HE'S
A LOT MORE
UNDERSTANDING
AND HAS MORE
COMMON
SENSE.

HA

HA

HA!



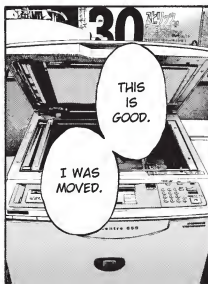
Just
like any
ordinary
girl.

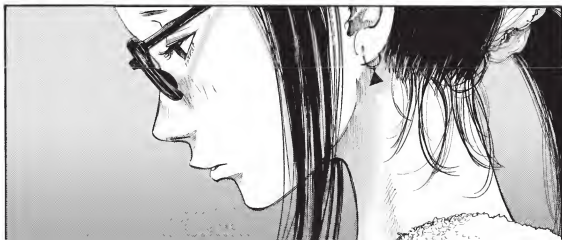


No, any
ordinary
stupid
girl.



This
wasn't
Aiko.

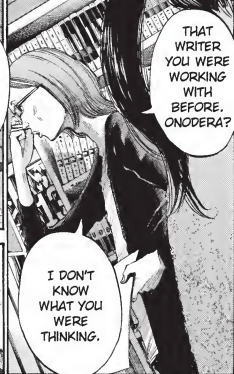






BUT
I'M
SURE
YOU
GET IT
NOW.

HE
WAS JUST
HOLDING
YOU BACK.



THAT
WRITER
YOU WERE
WORKING
WITH
BEFORE.
ONODERA?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT YOU
WERE
THINKING.

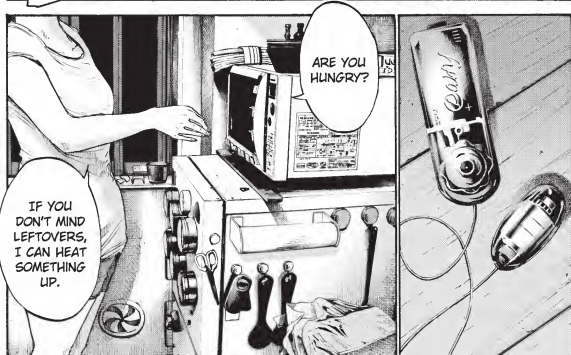
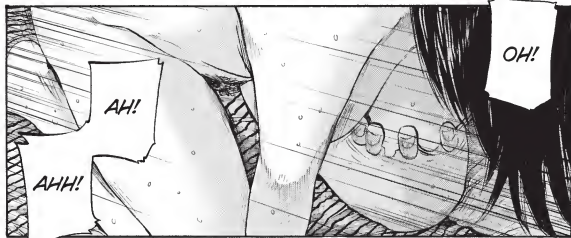


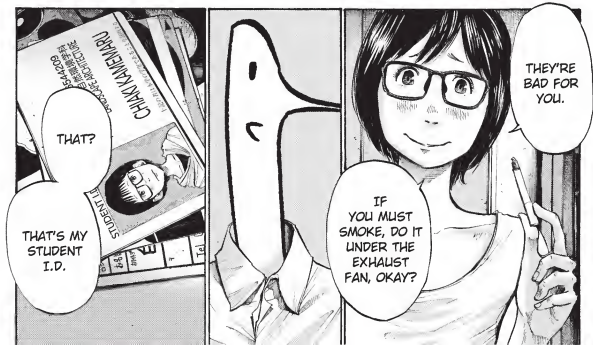
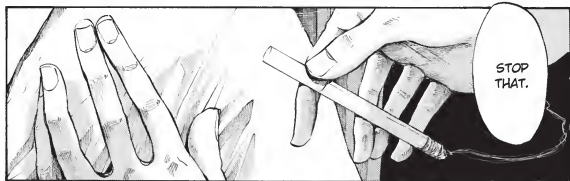
Tok

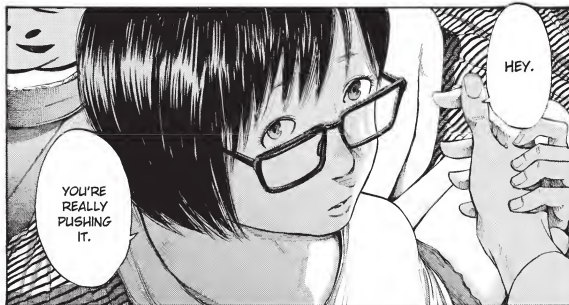


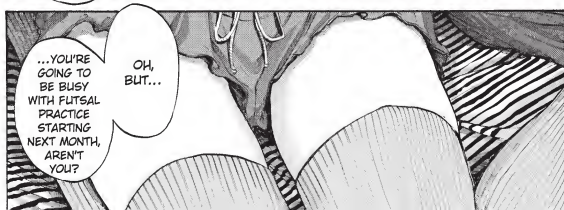
YOU'RE
RIGHT.













NEXT TIME
YOU HAVE A
GAME, I'LL
MAKE LUNCH
AND COME
CHEER YOU
ON.

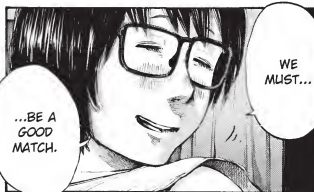
I WANT TO
MEET YOUR
FRIENDS.

...BUT
OFFSIDE
IS REALLY
IMPORTANT,
RIGHT?

I DON'T
REALLY
UNDER-
STAND
SOCCER
...



HA
HA
HA!

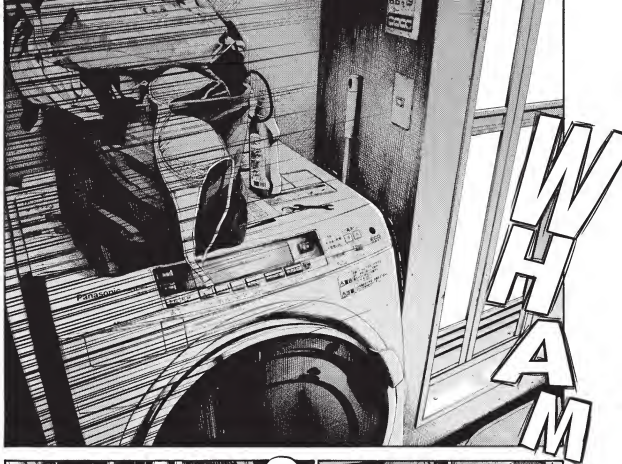


...BE A
GOOD
MATCH.

WE
MUST...



I DIDN'T
THINK WE'D
HIT IT OFF
SO WELL
SO
QUICKLY...

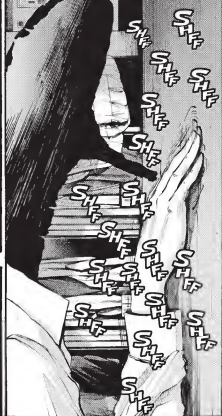


"Uh, well... There was a tarantula on the wall."



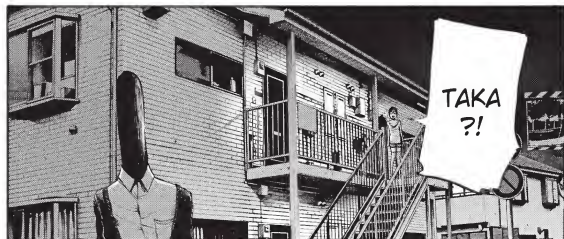


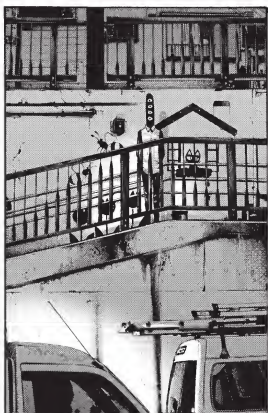
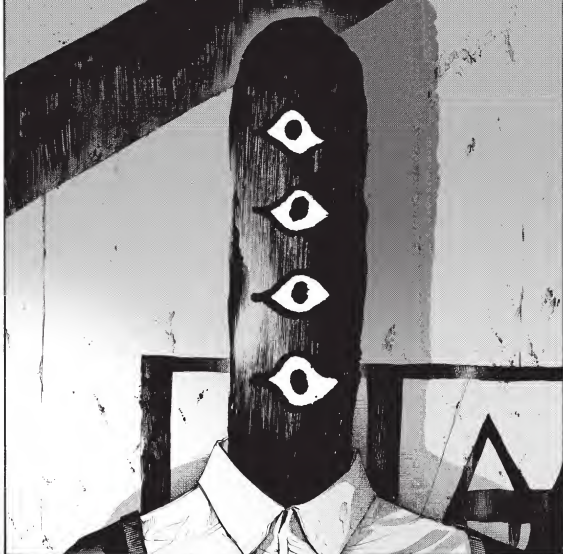
"Oh, look how well my fingers slide against the wall, so smoothly, gracefully and reliably."



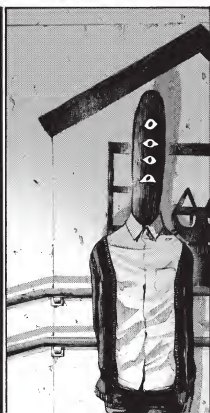
"I'm really sorry."

"Sorry..."





"Wrong."



"It's
not like
that at
all."

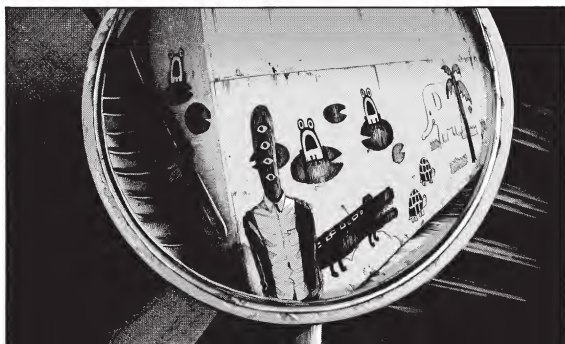


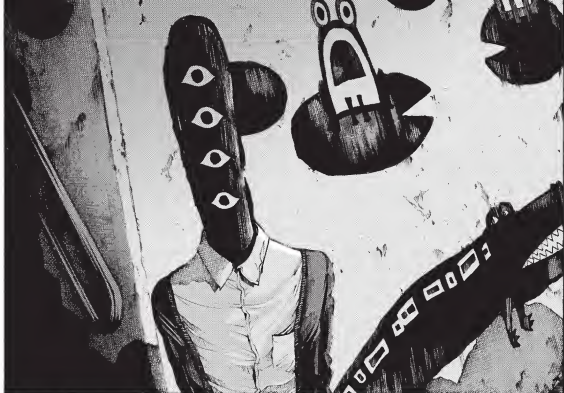
...what
Punpun
thought.

That's...

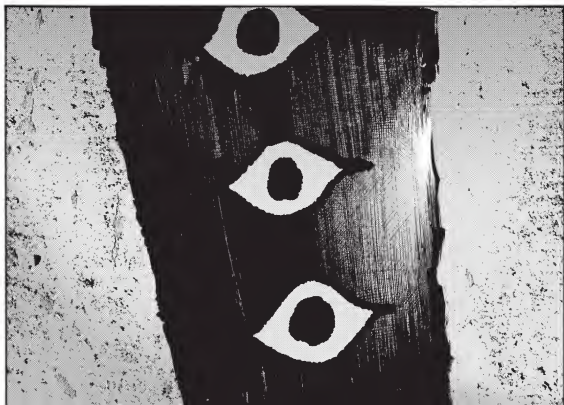


"Is this..."





"...what
my face
looks
like?"



BICYCLES PROHIBITED

Area for bicycles and motorbikes.

FINES

BICYCLE \$30.00

MOTORBIKE \$40.00

（バイク）を駐車すると、切られます。
Bicycles parked illegally will
be towed away.

駐車禁止区域です。
放置自転車等は
引かれます。

Bicycles and motorbikes
are not allowed to be parked here.
(Tel. 37-38 42 40)

交通について

駐車場所

9:00~19:00
9:00~18:00

（1） 駐車場の利用料金は400円
（2） 駐車料金は400円

（3） 駐車料金は400円

（4） 駐車料金は400円

（5） 駐車料金は400円

（6） 駐車料金は400円

（7） 駐車料金は400円

（8） 駐車料金は400円

（9） 駐車料金は400円

（10） 駐車料金は400円



Well, the
you that
you are
now is
all the
you that
there is.

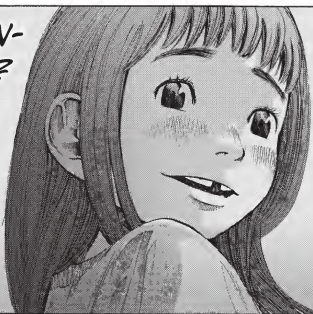
"In a few
years we'll
run out of
oil, the
environ-
ment will
be
destroyed
and...it'll
be over for
humanity."

When
we were
kids,
Aiko
used to
say...

While
Aiko easily
achieved
her dream,
like nothing
happened.

I believed
her, and
this is how I
ended up.

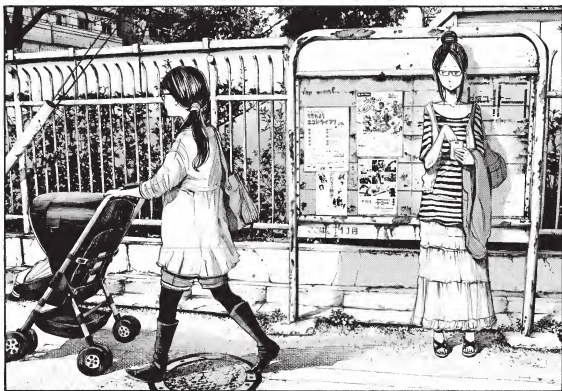
...PUN-
PUN?



YOU
DON'T
LIE,
RIGHT...

...the
liar.

You're...



AH.

WOW,
SACHI,
YOU'RE
EATING
CANDY.
HOW
UNUSUAL.



YOU
GUYS ARE
HANGING
OUT, BUT
NO
PUNPUN?

HMM?



WE
MESSAGED
HIM, BUT
HE HAD THE
BALLS TO
TELL US
HE'S BUSY
ALL WEEK.



ARE YOU
WORRIED
ABOUT
SOME-
THING?



I QUIT
SMOKING.
I CAN'T
SPEND THAT
KIND OF
MONEY ON
CIGARETTES
ANYMORE.

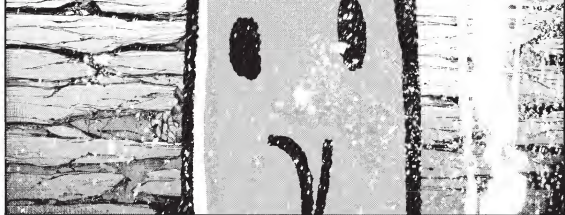


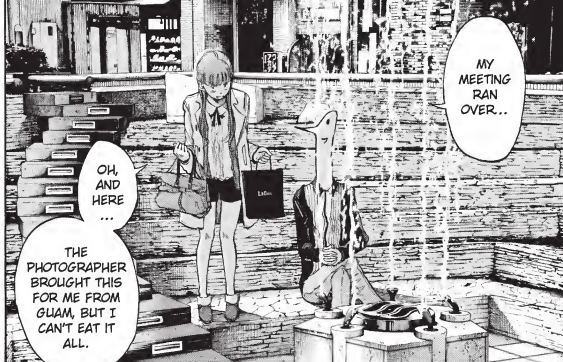
HERE,
KANIE, LET'S
FIGURE OUT
WHAT WE'RE
DOING.
WE'RE OFF
TO OKINAWA
TOMORROW.

IS
THERE
ANYONE
WHO
ISN'T?

UM,
SACHI.

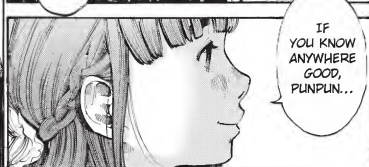
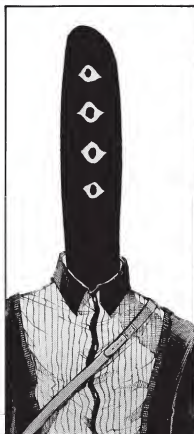


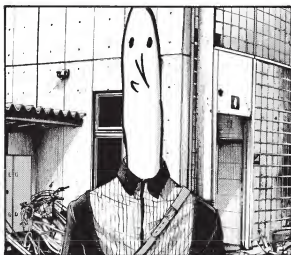




"I was sipping/
spilling my coffee
and studying at a
coffee shop until
just a little while
ago."

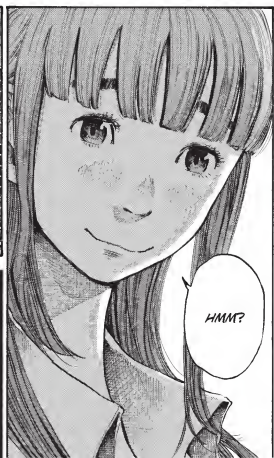
"Thank
you, don't
worry
about it..."

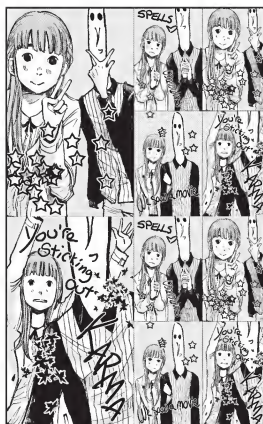


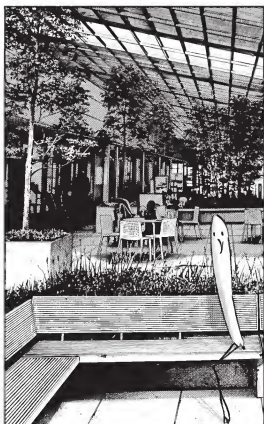


"Let's
go."

"It's
nothing..."









LIKE, I WANTED TO GO SEE THAT MOVIE...

DO WE EVEN HAVE THE SAME TASTE IN MOVIES?

...IT'S LIKE, YOU JUST GET IT, PUNPUN.

SO, YOU KNOW ...



YOUR GIRLFRIEND WOULD BE MAD IF SHE HEARD ME.



MY FRIEND RUNS IT.



THERE'S A REALLY CUTE CAFÉ NEARBY.

OH...





...and,
except for
minor signs
of rejection,
it fit very
well.

In just a
few days,
Taka's soul
had spread
throughout
Punpun's
body...

Information
on movies and
cool cafés he'd
crammed into his
head the night
before and
ostentatious
conversation
that he truly
didn't care about
spewed forth
endlessly from
his mouth.





WHEN I GO
DRINKING WITH
MY FRIENDS,
IT'S ALWAYS IN
CHEAP PLACES
LIKE THIS.

BECAUSE
THESE KINDS
OF MOM-
AND-POP
PLACES ARE
REALLY COM-
FORTABLE.

WHAT?



WHAT
ARE YOU
DRINKING?

IT'S
UNAFFECTED,
LIKE YOU.

THIS IS
NICE. IT'S
THE KIND
OF PLACE
FOR
COLLEGE
GUYS.



SO A
MEDIUM
DRAUGHT
FOR
YOU?

"...medi-
um raw?"

"Um..."

Also, the insane hard-on that had been raging for some time seemed to be there to stay.



This empty feeling of being an actual ham in a production full of ham actors.

What was this?



RENTING A ROOM SO HE CAN LOOK FOR THE GIRL HE LOVES IS JUST SO SAD...

WE SHOULD ALL GO OUT ONE NIGHT, AND I'LL INTRODUCE HIM TO ONE OF MY MODEL FRIENDS!

NO WAY, YOUR FRIEND IS DOING WHAT?

What do I want?



...WE'VE
GROWN
UP.

YOU
KNOW...

And who
the hell
are you?



ISN'T THAT
OUR MIDDLE
SCHOOL?

RIGHT
THERE.

OVER
THERE
...



IT'S SO WEIRD...

IT'S SUCH A SMALL TOWN.

I WONDER WHY WE NEVER BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER BEFORE.

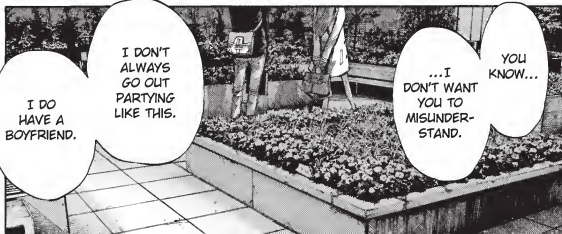


AHHH...

I MAY BE A LITTLE DRUNK.

WAIT, MAYBE NOT?

NO, YES, I AM.



I DO HAVE A BOYFRIEND.

I DON'T ALWAYS GO OUT PARTYING LIKE THIS.

...I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISUNDERSTAND.

YOU KNOW...

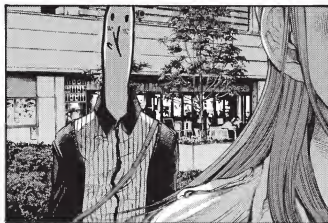


I THOUGHT
MAYBE I'D
HURT YOU
SOMEHOW.

I WAS A
CHILD AND
STUPID...

IT'S BEEN
AWKWARD
BETWEEN
US.

BUT I'VE
WANTED
TO APOLO-
GIZE TO
YOU FOR
A LONG
TIME.



"...the
same
thing."

"I was
thinking..."



I WAS
HOPING THE
DAY WOULD
COME
WHEN WE
COULD TALK
NORMALLY
AGAIN.

SO I'M
REALLY
HAPPY.

"And I thought
you'd have lost
your mind and
be living in the
gutter."



...THAT
I WAS
WORRIED YOU
MIGHT HAVE
COMMITTED
SUICIDE.

...YOU
USED TO
BE SO TIMID
AND HELP-
LESS...

YOU
KNOW,
TO BE
HONEST...

WAS
I LIKE
THAT?

HA
HA!



It was
no
laughing
matter.



"Ha
ha,"
she
says.

...Aiko
Tanaka.

You've
got to be
kidding...



YOU
ALREADY
ARE.

"Can
I hold
your
hand?"



"Why
do you
think?"

WHY?

"Can we
stay like
this for a
while?"



NO.

...DO
THIS.

WE
CAN'T...



MY
FEET...

I'M
TIRED OF
WALKING.



PUNPUN
...

...YOU'RE
SCARING
ME A
LITTLE.



PUNPUN
...

HOW
FAR
ARE WE
GOING?

"Do you
want to
take a
break at
a karaoke
place?"



"So
should
we throw
ourselves
in front of
a train?"

"How
about a
manga
café?"



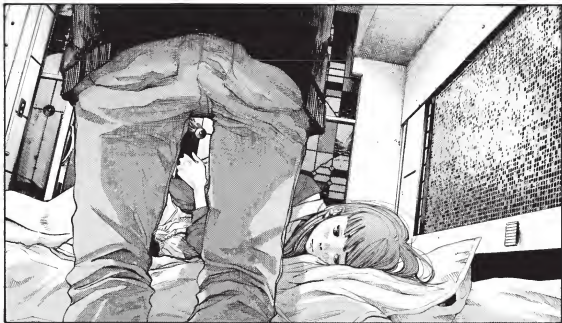


"Let's
go to a
hotel."



I have no
idea what
you're
thinking.

Aiko...



...I'm
sad.

But
somehow...



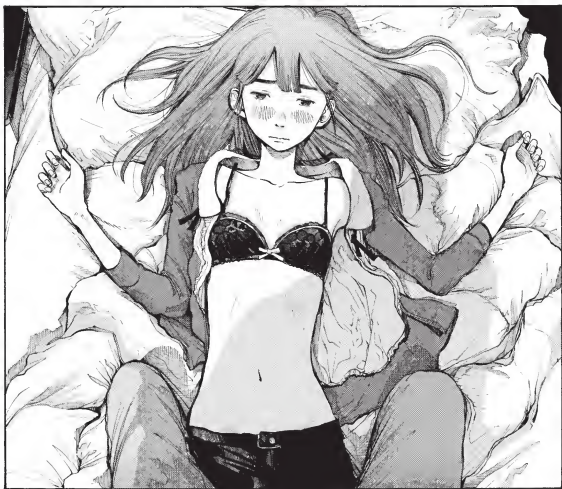


I know it's
audacious,
but I...

I...

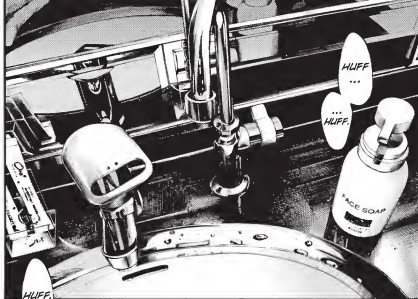
...it's obvious that
she's a little slutty
if she just goes
with her shallow
classmate that
she hasn't seen
in a couple of
years...

At any
rate...



...into the
depths of
despair.

I want
to knock
you...

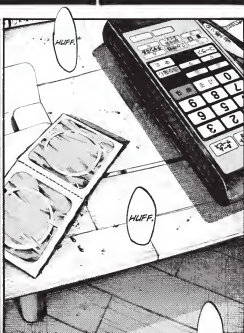


Aiko,
I...

...went
on to a
different
world.

You
cursed
me and
then...

...don't
want to
forgive
you...



...will you
despise
me too?

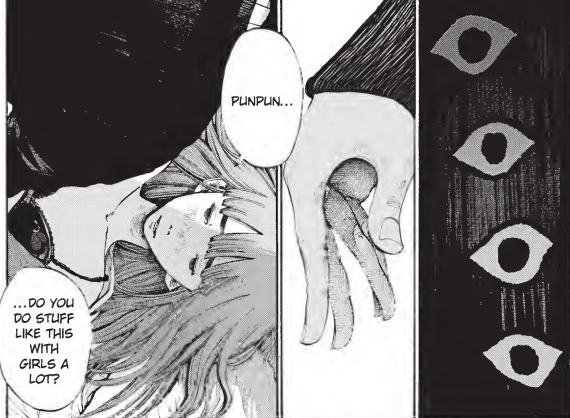
...
but
...

I'm
sorry
it's so
selfish...

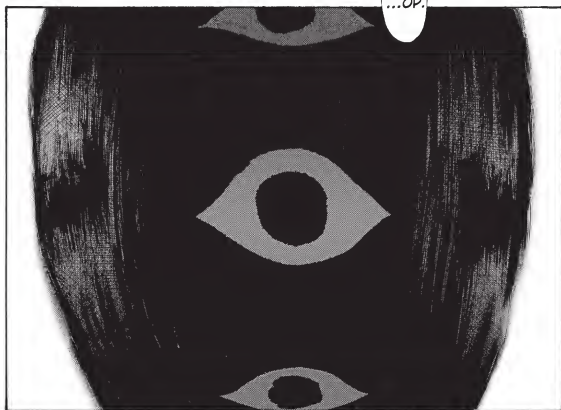
If
you'll
permit
me...

HUUFF

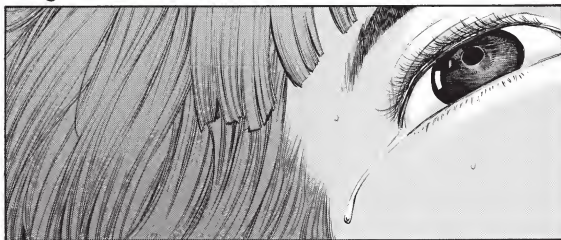
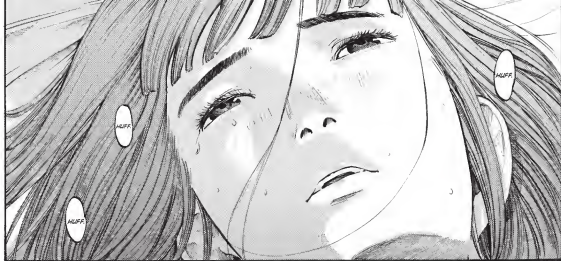


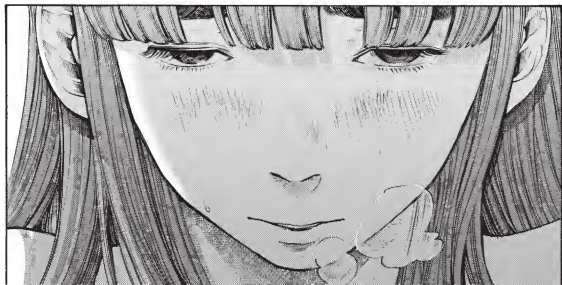


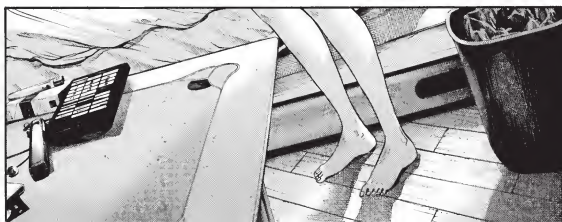


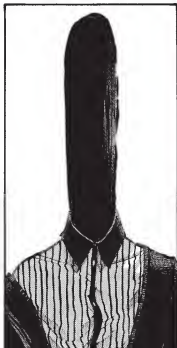
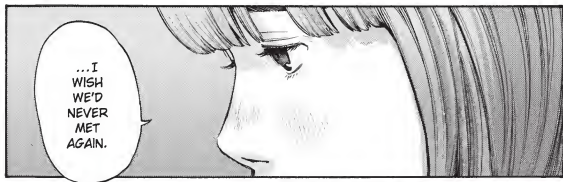


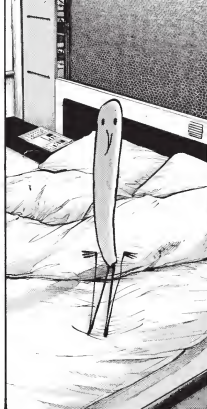








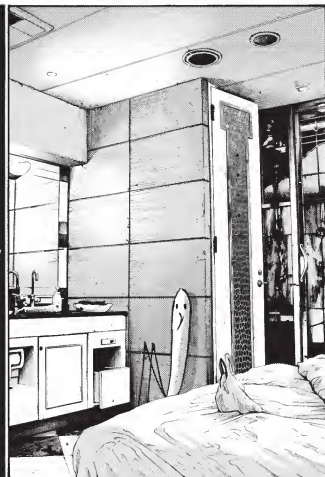




Punpun
thought



"I've
lost
every-
thing."





There's
nothing
left
to do.





The early mid-May morning held hands with the wind between the buildings and carried a feeling of nascent summer.

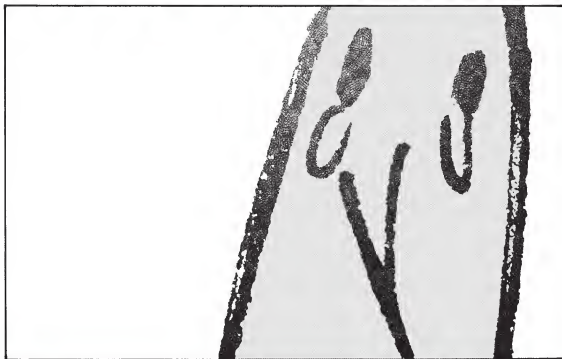
...and headed for the sewer with bloody semen.

The sense of emptiness got off the prostate line at urethra station...



As long
as he stayed
put, summer
should
arrive all on
its own.

There
was no
reason for
Punpun to
walk around
anymore.



He was
really
looking
forward to
summer.



STOP IT. I
FEEL SORRY
FOR HIM. AND
HE DOES AS
GOOD A JOB
AS ANYONE
ELSE.

YOU
WERE THE
ONE WHO
COMPLAINED
BIG-TIME
WHEN WE
WENT FOR
DRINKS.

I'M NOT
SAYING
I HAVE
ANYTHING
AGAINST
HIM BEING
ANXIOUS

...BUT
DOESN'T HE
GET HOW
STRESSFUL
IT IS FOR US
TO TIPTOE
AROUND HIS
FEELINGS?

HOW...

...CAN
PUNPUN
ACT SO
NONCHA-
LANT?



...Mr.
Shishido,
who was
the one
who had
encouraged
Punpun to
get his
license, was
still in the
hospital.

But...

Punpun
was still
strong.

That's
right...

It was only
until Punpun
could make back
the \$3,000 he
had paid for
driving school...





Die,
die,
die!

You
idiot!
You
piece
of shit!

Are
you
kid-
ding
me?

Are
you
kid-
ding
me?

...and
I'll live
wherever
has the
most
beautiful
scenery.

I'll bring
the bare
minimum of
luggage...

...I'm going
to go far,
far away,
where I
don't know
anyone!

When
I get my
license...



That's
what
Punpun
thought.

...but it
would be
nice to find
a special
someone
there...

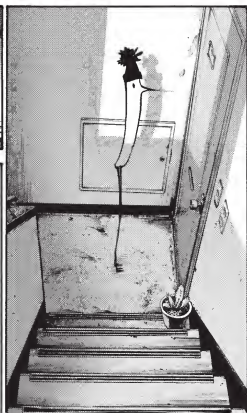
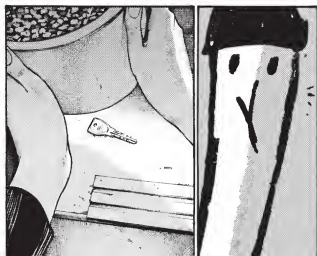
I
don't care
if it's far,
far in the
future...

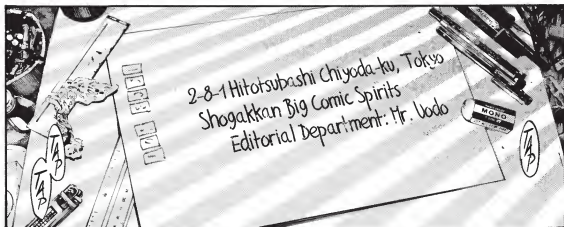
I'm not
in a hurry
anymore.



...standing
in front of
Sachi's
building.

He found
himself...

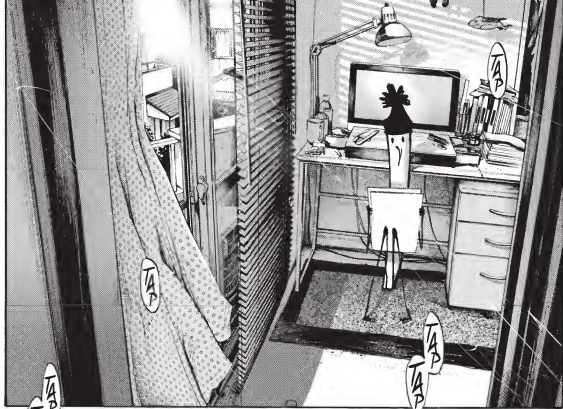




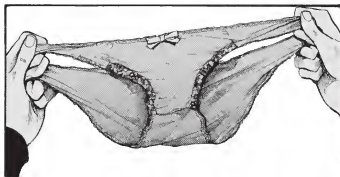
...conveyed
Sachi's
talent
without any
help from
Punpun.

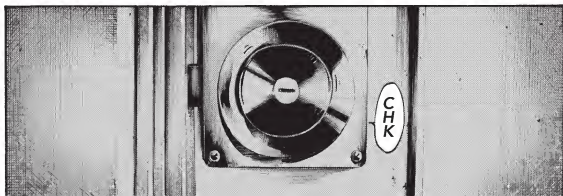
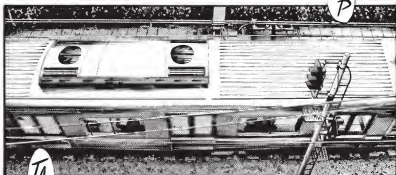
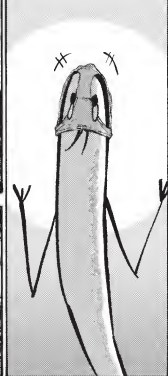
The
completed
manuscript
carelessly
strewn
on the desk...

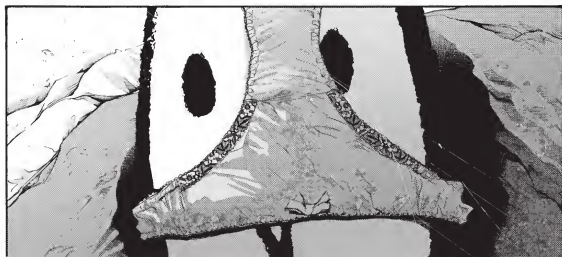
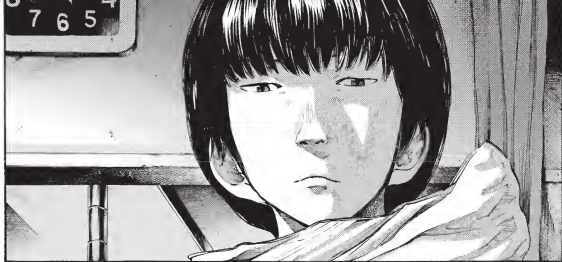


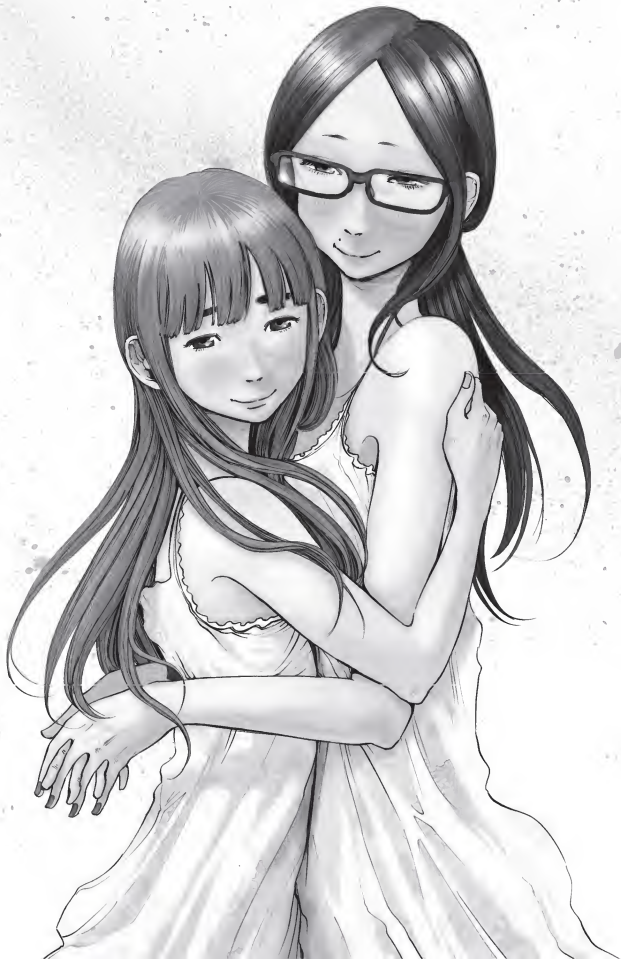


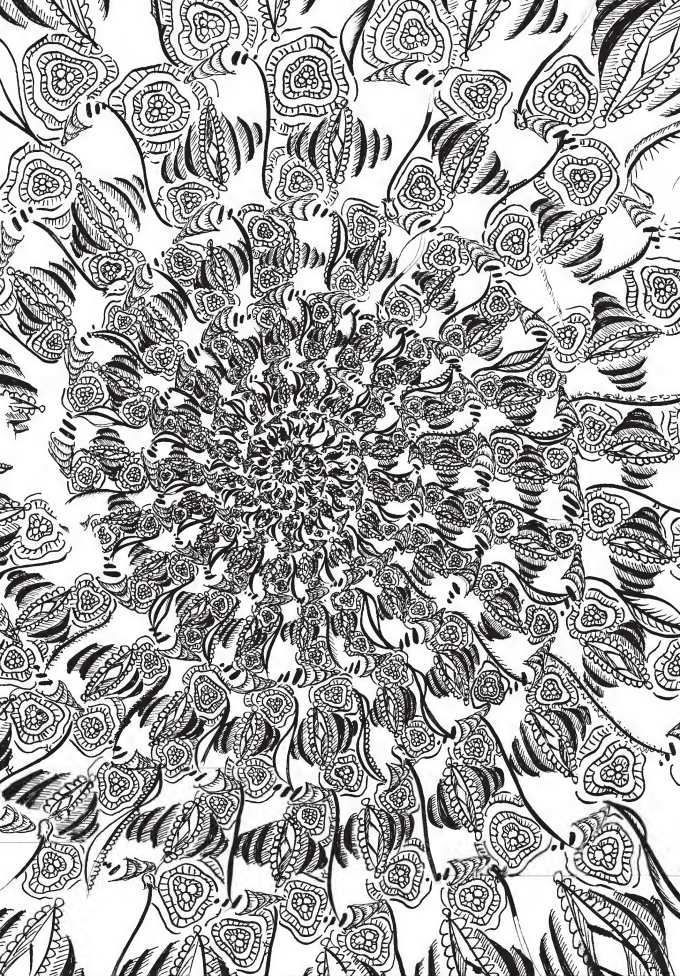
Punpun
thought,
"This is
good."

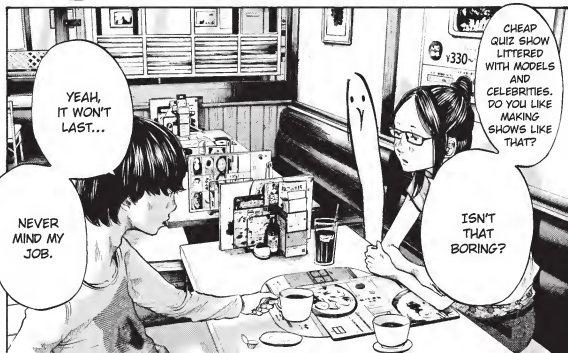




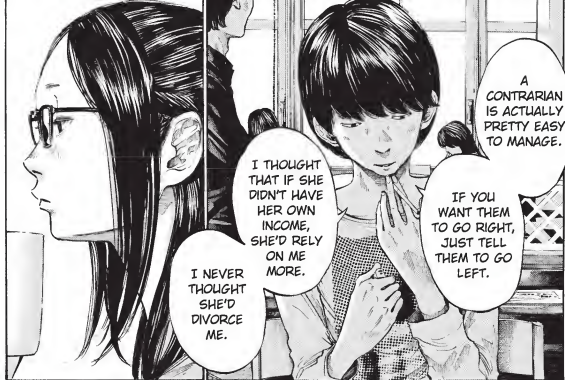












A
CONTRARIAN
IS ACTUALLY
PRETTY EASY
TO MANAGE.

I THOUGHT
THAT IF SHE
DIDN'T HAVE
HER OWN
INCOME,
SHE'D RELY
ON ME
MORE.

I NEVER
THOUGHT
SHE'D
DIVORCE
ME.

IF YOU
WANT THEM
TO GO RIGHT,
JUST TELL
THEM TO GO
LEFT.



HMM?
JUST
TALKING
TO
MYSELF.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



THAT'S
ABOUT
THE GIST
OF IT,
RIGHT?

THAT'S
JUST HOW
THINGS
PANNED
OUT?



IF THAT'S
HOW YOU'VE
BEEN LIVING,
THAT'S PRETTY
MUCH ALL
YOUR LIFE WILL
AMOUNT TO.

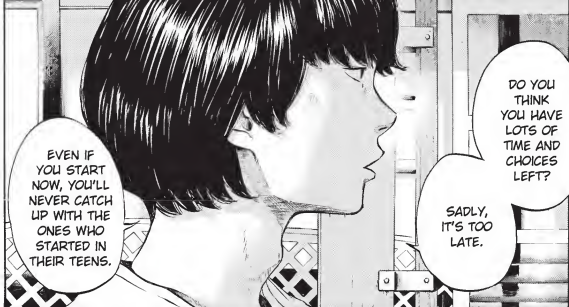
YOU'RE
TWENTY
NOW,
RIGHT?



PUNPUN
...

...I
HEAR...

...YOU
WANT TO
WORK
IN REAL
ESTATE.
WHY?



EVEN IF
YOU START
NOW, YOU'LL
NEVER CATCH
UP WITH THE
ONES WHO
STARTED IN
THEIR TEENS.

DO YOU
THINK
YOU HAVE
LOTS OF
TIME AND
CHOICES
LEFT?

SADLY,
IT'S TOO
LATE.



...A LOSER
IS ALWAYS
A LOSER.

EVEN
IF YOU
EXPERIENCE
SOME
FLEETING
HAPPINESS...

SUCCESS IS
ONLY DEFINED
BY HAVING A
JOB WORTH
DOING AND BEING
COMPENSATED
FOR IT.

OKAY,
I'LL BE
BLUNT...

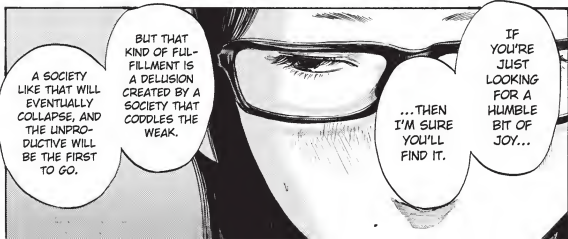


PURSuing
YOUR
INTER-
ESTS?

GOOD
HEALTH
AND A
LONG
LIFE?

WHAT'S
YOUR
DEFINITION
OF
HAPPINESS,
ONODERA?

MAR-
RIAGE?



A SOCIETY
LIKE THAT WILL
EVENTUALLY
COLLAPSE, AND
THE UNPRO-
DUCTIVE WILL
BE THE FIRST
TO GO.

BUT THAT
KIND OF FUL-
FILLMENT IS
A DELUSION
CREATED BY A
SOCIETY THAT
CODDLES THE
WEAK.

...THEN
I'M SURE
YOU'LL
FIND IT.

IF
YOU'RE
JUST
LOOKING
FOR A
HUMBLE
BIT OF JOY...



SO YOU
HAVE NO
RIGHT TO
COMPLAIN
ABOUT BEING
CUT LOOSE.

ARE YOU
READY FOR
THAT?

I MEAN,
YOU'RE
RESPON-
SIBLE FOR
DRAGGING
DOWN
SOCIETY.

BUT
YOU'VE
BROUGHT
THAT ON
YOUR-
SELVES.



THAT'S
RIGHT,
I'M A
WINNER.

EASY FOR
YOU TO SAY,
SAOTOME.
YOU'RE ON
THE WINNING
TEAM.



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH ME
CALLING OUT
A LOSER?

EVER SINCE I
WAS A KID, I'VE
BEEN DESPERATELY
HEDGING MY BETS,
BATTLING MY FEARS
AND MY DEPRAV-
ITY AND LIVING
CONSCIENTIOUSLY-
ALL SO I CAN BE
A WINNER.



THE ONLY
THING YOU
CAN DO IS
PLAY THE
VICTIM AND
RANT.

THAT'S
WISE.
YOU CAN'T
POSSIBLY
HAVE
ANYTHING
TO SAY.

YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
SPEAK?

...DON'T
YOU
SPEAK?

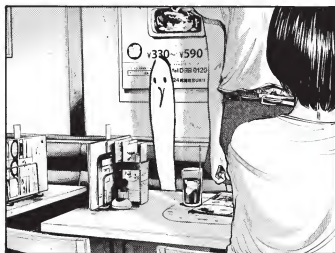
SO...



...GOING
TOO
FAR!

THAT'S
...

HEY.



YOU'RE
SUCH A
WOMAN.

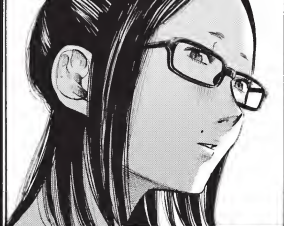
YOU'RE
TOO
TOLERANT.
WHAT DO
YOU SEE IN
THIS KID?

I
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
ONE OF
US.

"That's
enough.



"I
already
know
all that.



"The
only
thing
I can
say...



"...is that you
and I are clearly
incompatible."

SAO-
TOME
...

HE...

...HAS
NO
WEAK-
NESSES.





BUT
I WAS
REALLY
DISAP-
POINTED
BY THAT
RANT.

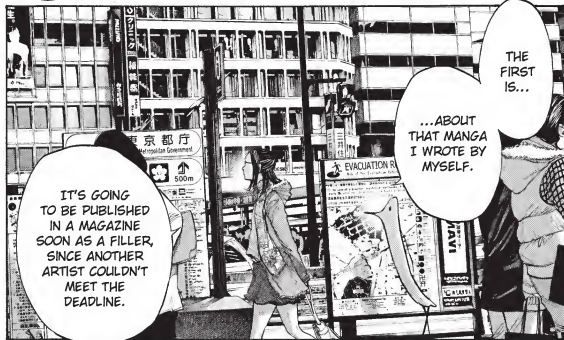
SO...

...I NEED
TO TELL
YOU TWO
THINGS.



...AND
DESPISE
HIM FOR
IT.

I
RESPECT
HIM FOR
THAT...



IT'S GOING
TO BE PUBLISHED
IN A MAGAZINE
SOON AS A FILLER,
SINCE ANOTHER
ARTIST COULDN'T
MEET THE
DEADLINE.

...ABOUT
THAT MANGA
I WROTE BY
MYSELF.

THE
FIRST
IS...

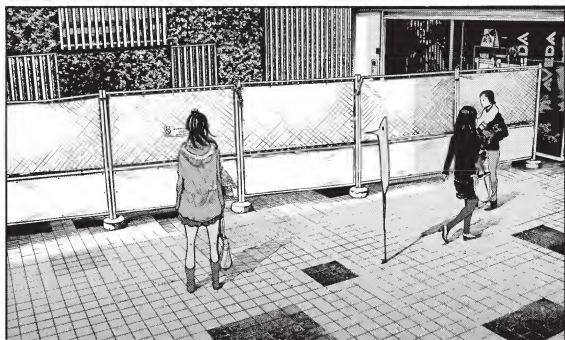
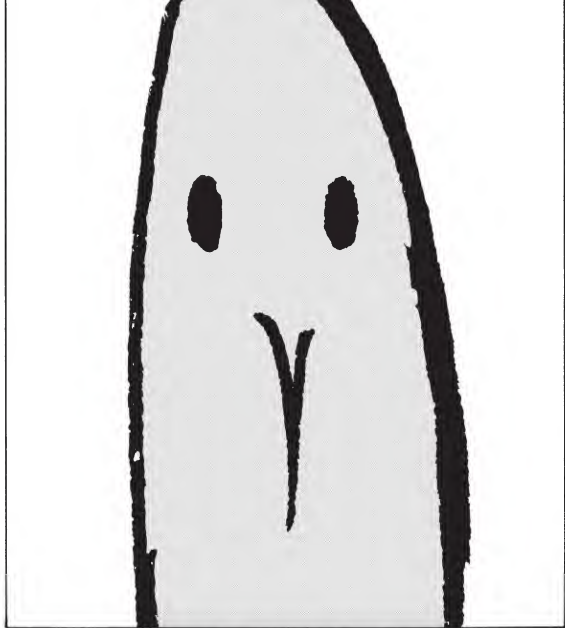


...SO IF
IT'S WELL
RECEIVED,
THEY MAY
TURN IT
INTO A
SERIES.

I WON
THE BEST
NEWCOMER
PRIZE MY
FIRST TIME
AROUND...







"He
came in
you."

PLORD
SHINJUKU

&

MOSA
STREET
モザイク街

YES,
HE
DID.

IT'S
SAOTOME'S.

SORRY.

NO...

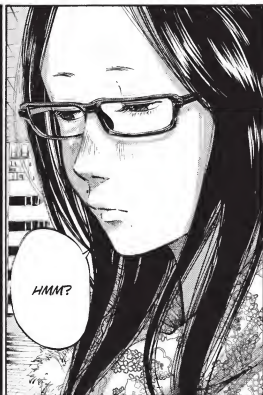
I MEAN,
YOU AND I
AREN'T...

THERE'S
NOTHING
FOR ME TO
APOLOGIZE
ABOUT.

WE
AREN'T...



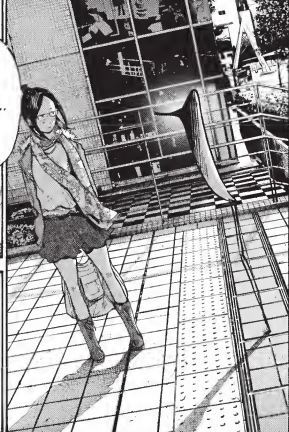
"Who's more important to you— me or your ex?"



"Sachi..."



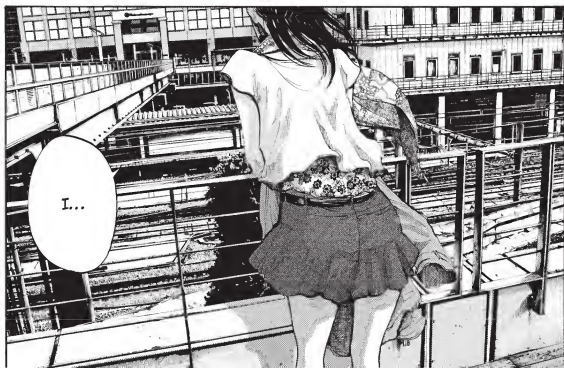
WHICH
ANSWER...

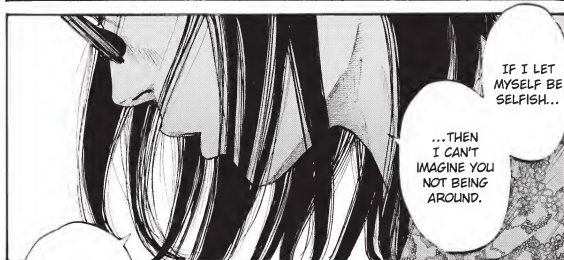


...needless
question.

...
horrible
...

There
was no
need for
that...







My
needless
question
cuts further
into her
already
weakened
heart.

...to say
nothing
and just be
supportive.

The best
thing to
do would
be...

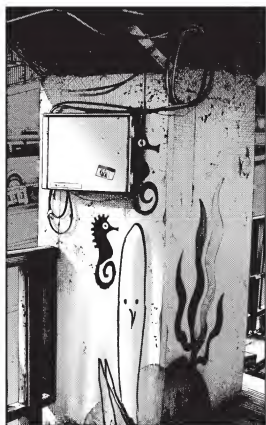


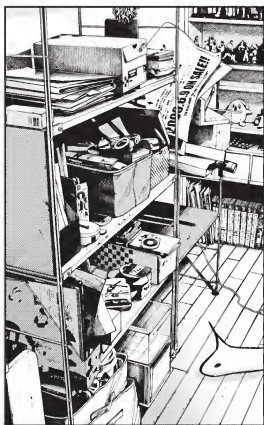


... "Yes."

...Punpun
answered...

In a
small
voice...





“You reap what you sow.”



The words Uncle Yuichi once said kept circling in Punpun's mind.



SORRY TO CALL SO EARLY...

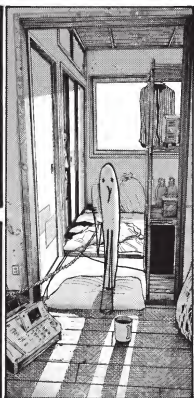
WERE YOU ASLEEP??

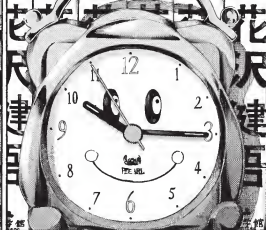
Punpun had been having trouble sleeping for the last few days.





...
resolved. I
am...





...I'm
going
to live
alone
in a
faway
town.

...and I
get my
license...

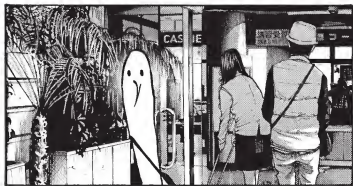
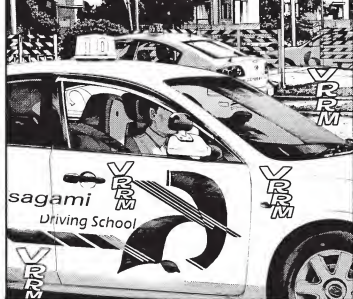
After
Sachi
has her
surgery...

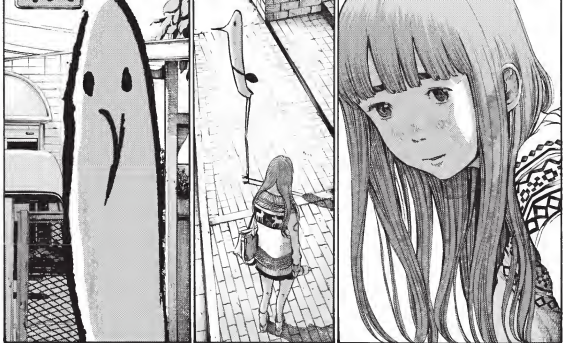
"That's
what
I'll do.

"Yes.

"That's
what
I'll do."





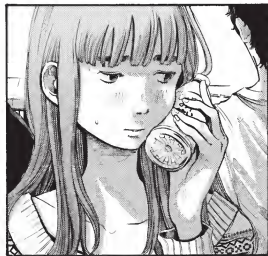


"Can
we
talk?"



I'M COMING
BACK THIS
WEEKEND
TO TAKE MY
TEST.

I
FINISHED
THE
COURSE
TODAY.







BY
APPLYING MY
INDEPENDENT
RESEARCH
ON THE
ULTIMATE
GIGOLO
THEORY...

...I WAS ABLE
TO DERIVE A
MELODY THAT
HARMONIZES
DISSONANCE.

THIS
PERFORMANCE,
DEDICATED TO
THE AKASHIC
RECORDS, IS
ESSENTIAL IN
ORDER TO EVADE
THE PROMISED
DAY ONE MONTH
FROM NOW...

AND ON
JULY 7, I WANT
TO CONVERSE WITH
ALL YOU LOVERS
ABOUT THE BEGIN-
NING OF THE NEW
WORLD.



THE
WORLD CAN
BECOME MORE
BEAUTIFUL.

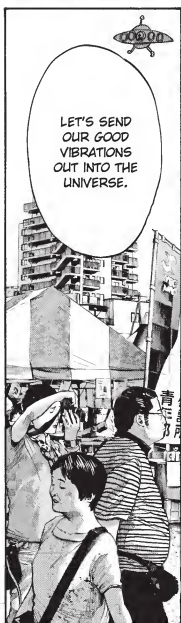
YOU
CAN DO
IT...

I
VALUE YOU
UNEQUIVO-
CALLY.



UM,
EXCUSE
ME.

CAN YOU
START
PERFORMING
NOW?



LET'S SEND
OUR GOOD
VIBRATIONS
OUT INTO THE
UNIVERSE.



YOU
ARE THE
AWESOME
ONES
BROUGHT
TOGETHER
FOR THIS
UNIFYING
MOMENT
TODAY...

LET'S
ALL GET
SOAKED
TOGETHER!

COME,
YOU MAGIC
WARRIORS
OF THE 12
TONES...



OH...



THIS
SONG...

IT'S...

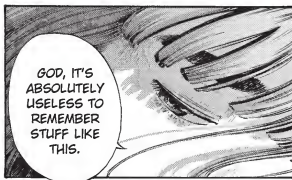
...\"I
WOULD
GIVE YOU
ANYTHING.\"



PUNPUN,
YOU DITCHED
PRACTICE
ONE DAY.



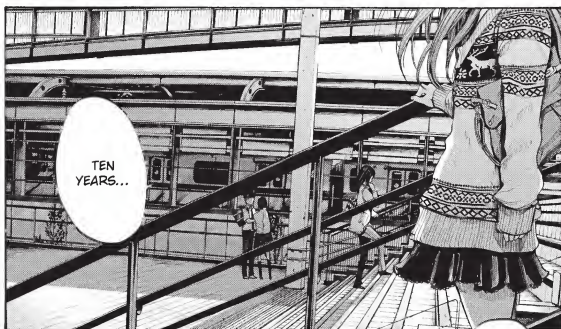
IT WAS
THE PIECE
WE DID
FOR THE
CHOIR COM-
PETITION
IN FIFTH
GRADE.



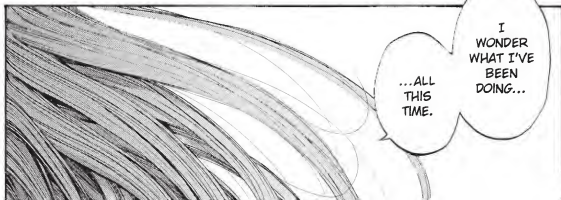
GOD, IT'S
ABSOLUTELY
USELESS TO
REMEMBER
STUFF LIKE
THIS.



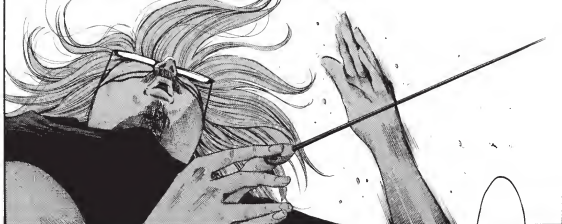
I
REMEMBER
IT SO
WELL.



TEN
YEARS...



I
WONDER
WHAT I'VE
BEEN
DOING...
...ALL
THIS
TIME.



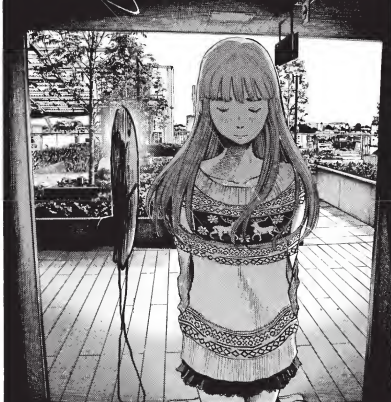
SORRY

...

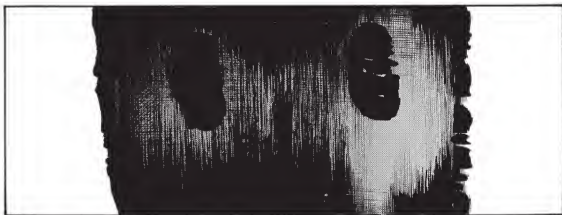
I'M...



...GOING
TO GO
HOME.



"Um..."



"I'm
Onodera.

"...not really
Fujikawa..."

"I'm..."



"No, that's
insulting to
seaweed.

"I'm just
seaweed floating
along half-assed
every day, not
happy or
particularly
sad...

"I'm not really a
college student, I
can't play futsal,
I don't have a
girlfriend...



"...which made
me miserable
as well as
frustrated.

"But
the Aiko I
finally met was
not the Aiko I
remembered...

"For the
last few
years, obses-
sively.

"...I've
been
looking
for you for ten
years,
Aiko.

"So
I...



"...and
turned
me into a
pathetic,
useless
human
being.

"It's
robbed me
of my self-
confidence...

"...there's
regret for
not keeping
my promise
to go to
Kagoshima
with you...

"At the
bottom of
my heart...



"That
may
be it.

"...for
nothing
ever
working
out for
me.

"...maybe
I've just
been
blaming
you...

"...actually... "No...

"I
mean...

"...without
me
worrying
about it.

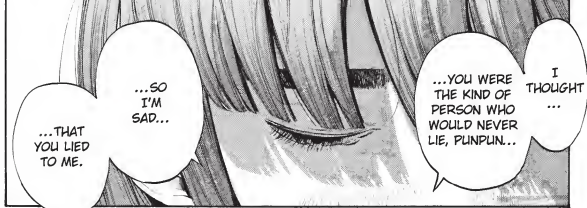
"You're
capable
of having
a happy
life...

"But I've
finally
woken
up.



"I'm
glad
I saw
you.





...THAT
YOU LIED
TO ME.

...SO
I'M
SAD...

...YOU WERE
THE KIND OF
PERSON WHO
WOULD NEVER
LIE, PUNPUN...

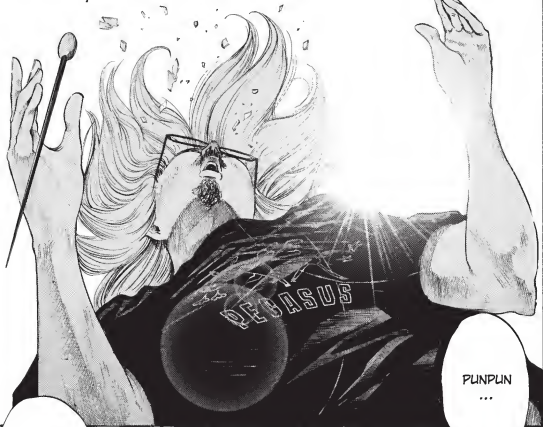
I
THOUGHT
...



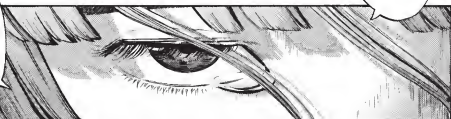
I
PROMISED
YOU,
RIGHT?

IF YOU
BETRAY
ME
AGAIN...

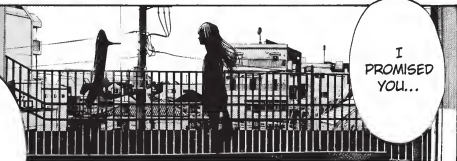
...I'LL
KILL
YOU.



☆
★
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, HAVE YOU?



☆
★
...I'D KILL YOU.



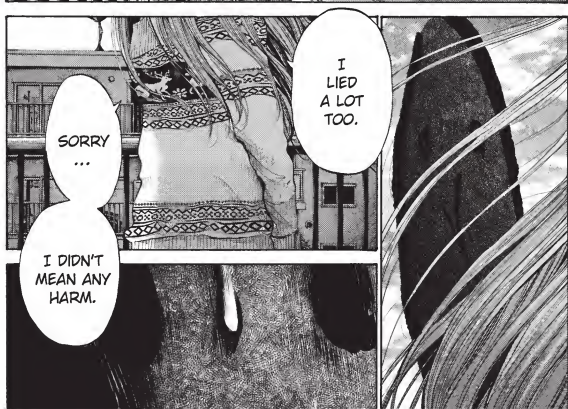
I PROMISED YOU...





BUT...

...I'LL
FORGIVE
YOU,
ESPECIALLY
THIS TIME.



SORRY

...

I
LIED
A LOT
TOO.

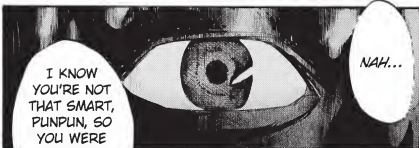
I DIDN'T
MEAN ANY
HARM.



...THAT
YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE
ENJOYING
LIFE.

IT'S
NOT
FAIR...

Oh...



I KNOW
YOU'RE NOT
THAT SMART,
PUNPUN, SO
YOU WERE
PROBABLY
TELLING
PETTY LIES.

NAH...

Oh.



...
PUNPUN.

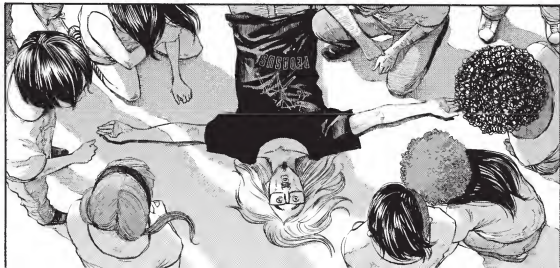
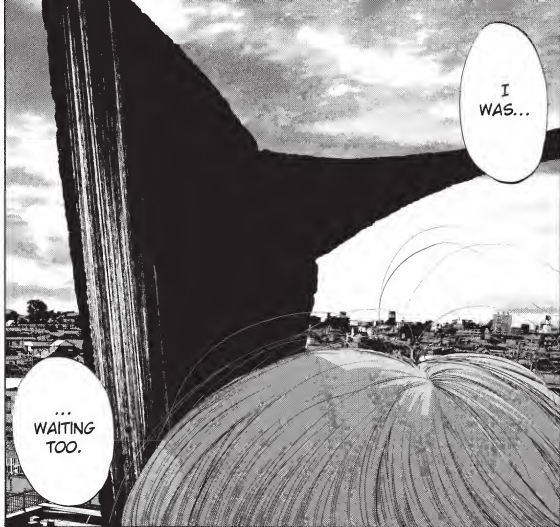
HEY...

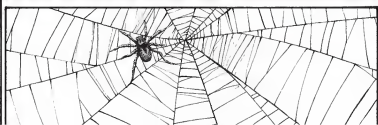
O



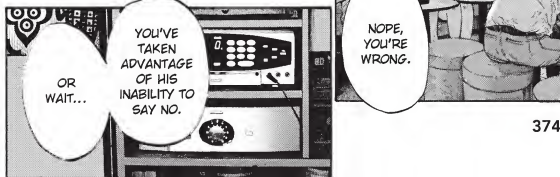
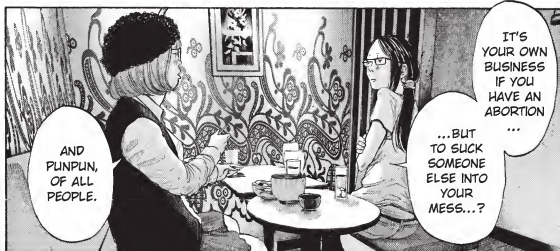
...FOR
WAITING
FOR ME
ALL THIS
TIME.

THANK
YOU...





HUH?







...LIE.

SO...

...IT'S
ALL A BIG
FAT...



BUT...

...THE
PART ABOUT
BEING AT A
LITTLE TALENT
AGENCY WAS
TRUE.

THEY
DISCOVERED
ME ON THE
STREET, AND
I WAS A
YOUNG STAR.



...AND
I QUIT
BECAUSE I
COULDN'T
FAKE
ENJOYMENT.

I
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE EASIER
TO MAKE
MONEY...

AND
I WAS
GETTING
YELLED AT
FOR NOT
BEING ABLE
TO SMILE
ON CUE.

BUT MY
MOM WAS
REALLY
OPPOSED
TO IT.



UNTIL
THEN, I
COULDN'T
REALLY
SMILE...

DO YOU
KNOW
WHY?

BUT...

...SINCE WE
MET UP, I
CAN SMILE
FOR REAL
AGAIN.



YOU'RE
NOT TRYING
TO TOUCH
ME LIKE
THE OTHER
NIGHT.

THAT'S
COOL.



I DON'T
KNOW
EITHER...

...BUT
I'M SURE
THERE'S A
REASON.



"...I know it
was super
smooth to get
you up to my
room..."

"Um..."

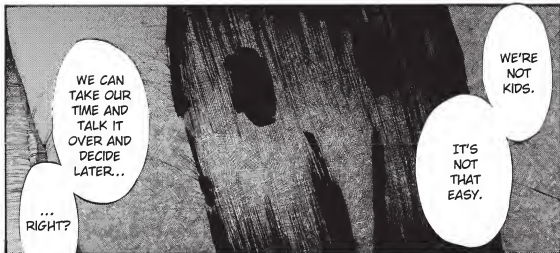
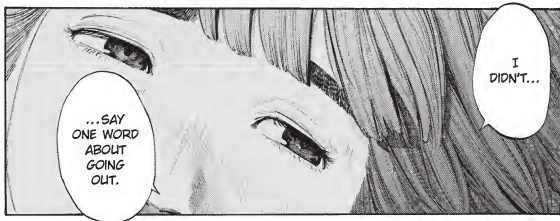


...WHO
SAID I
WANTED TO
SEE YOUR
PLACE.

I'M
THE
ONE...

"...I'm not
interested
in going
out with
anyone."

"...but
right
now..."



He
wanted
to say
something,
but...

Punpun
wanted
to say...



MY
MOM'S
GOING
TO BE
ANGRY...

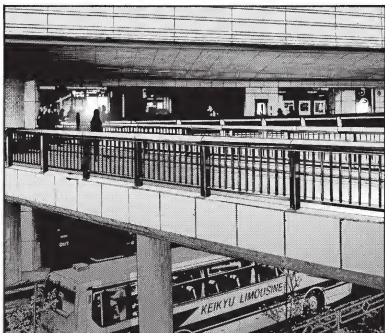
I HAD A
REALLY
HARD TIME
COMING UP
WITH AN
EXCUSE
LAST TIME.

But he
couldn't
find the
right
words.

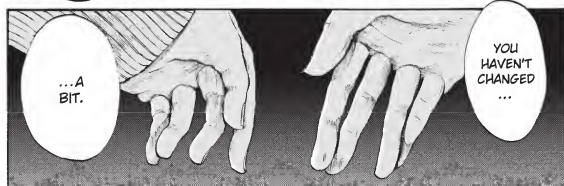
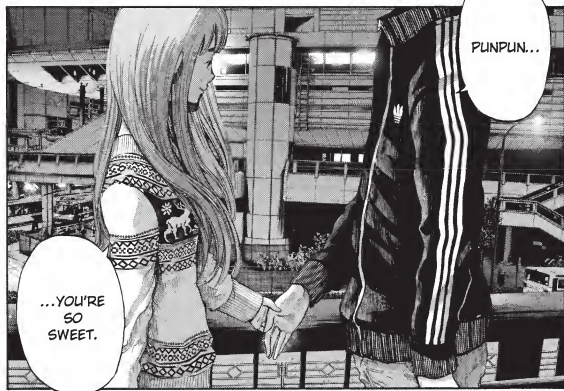
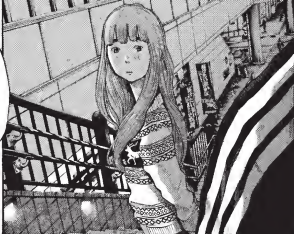
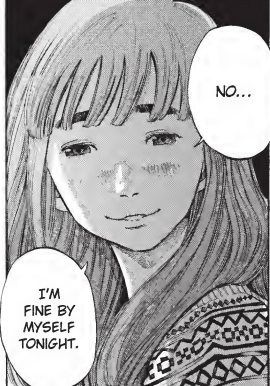


I
NEED...

...TO GET
GOING.



"Should I
come with
you and
apologize
to her?"







PUNPUN.

IS
YOUR
HEART
POUND-
ING?



Punpun
had a
thought.

I'LL
SEE
YOU
SOON...

...
PUNPUN.

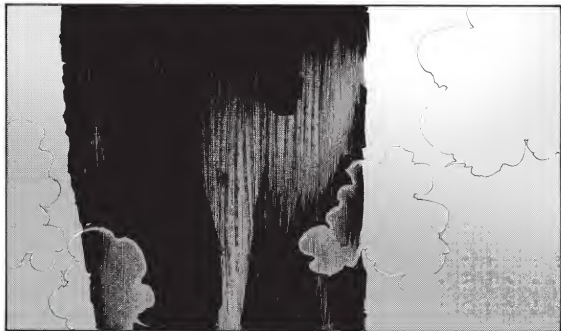
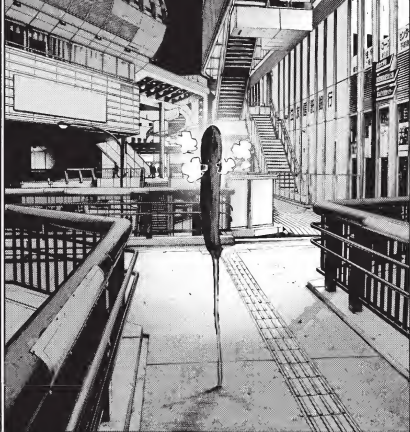


MINE...

...IS
REALLY
POUNDING.

...likely
wouldn't
be
broken
easily.

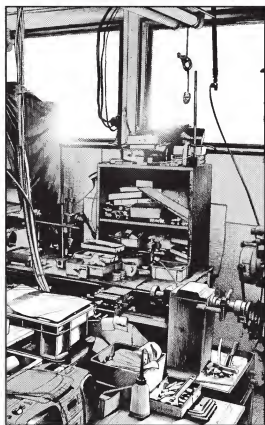
The
spell
that
Aiko
had
put on
him...



...is so
selfish.

Everyone...



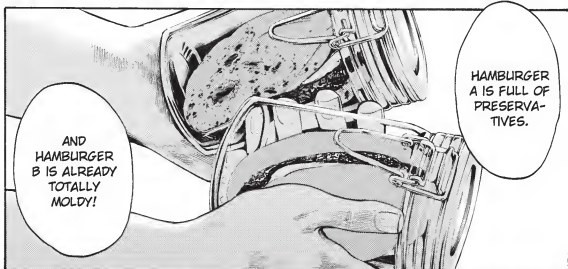




LOOK
AT THIS.
LOOK!

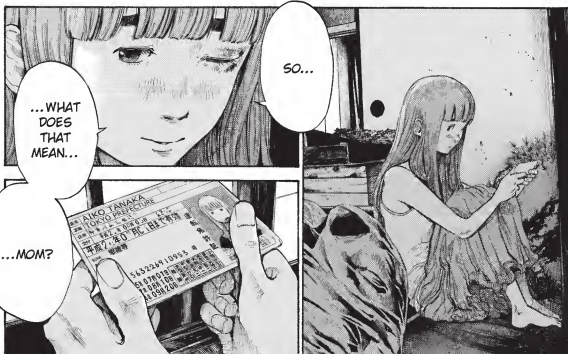
AIKO...

HEY,
AIKO!



AND
HAMBURGER
B IS ALREADY
TOTALLY
MOLDY!

HAMBURGER
A IS FULL OF
PRESERVA-
TIVES.

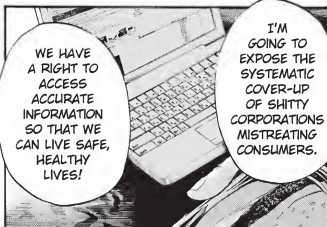


...WHAT
DOES
THAT
MEAN...

SO...

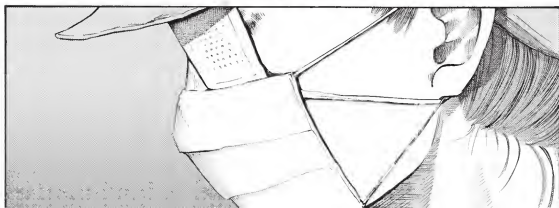
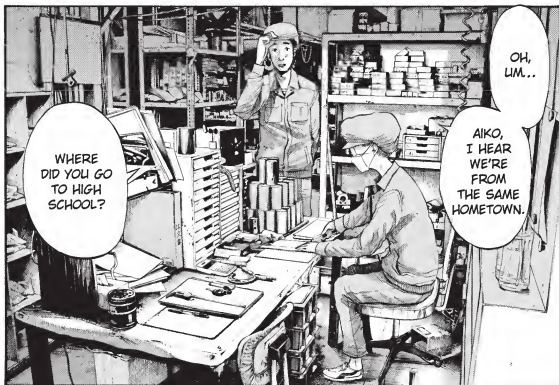
...MOM?

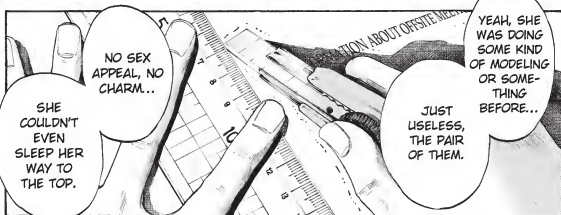
AIKO TANAKA
1-10-10
TOKYO PREFECTURE
51 078018
51 088170
51 098720
51 098720



I'M
GOING TO
EXPOSE THE
SYSTEMATIC
COVER-UP
OF SHITTY
CORPORATIONS
MISTREATING
CONSUMERS.



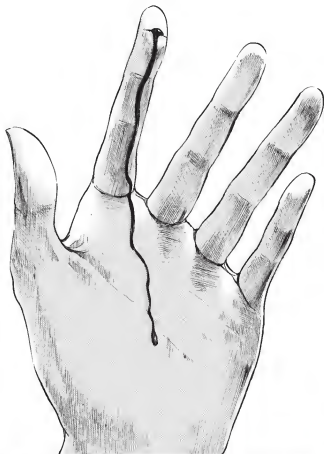




WHOA...

WAIT...

THAT'S
TAKING IT
TOO FAR.



DON'T YOU
HAVE ANY
EMPATHY?

OH
YEAH?

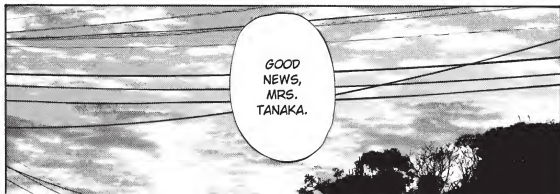
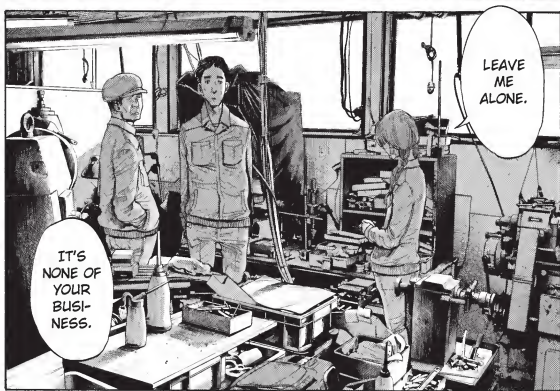
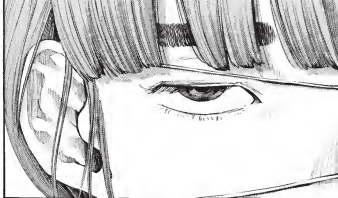
THAT'S A
DISGUSTING
THING TO
SAY TO A
WOMAN.

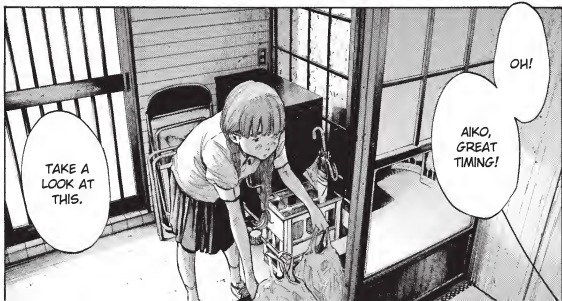
IT'S
SEXUAL
HARASS-
MENT!

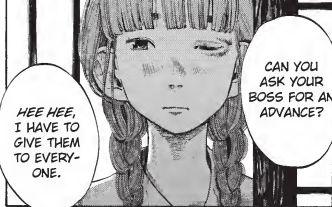
SURE
I DO,
LOTS.

WHY DON'T
YOU SAY
SOMETHING,
AIKO?

I CAN'T
STAND
BY AND
WATCH
THAT.



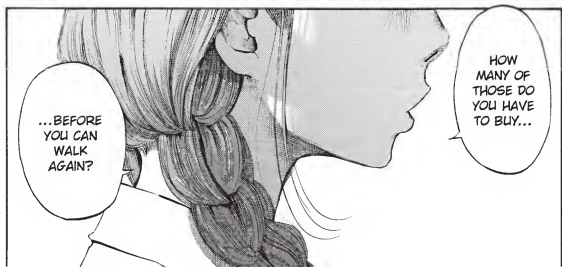




CAN YOU
ASK YOUR
BOSS FOR AN
ADVANCE?



WELCOME
HOME,
AIKO...





I'VE...

...TRIED
NOT TO
THINK
ABOUT
IT.

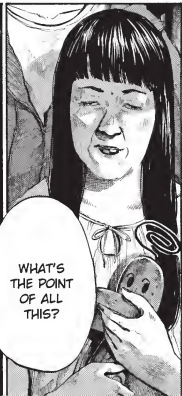
BUT I
REALLY
DON'T
WANT...

...THIS
SHITTY
LIFE.



I...

...WANT
A
BETTER
LIFE.



WHAT'S
THE POINT
OF ALL
THIS?



YOU
KNOW
WHAT'S
COMING.



PLEASE
GO.

I'M
SORRY,
EVERY-
ONE.



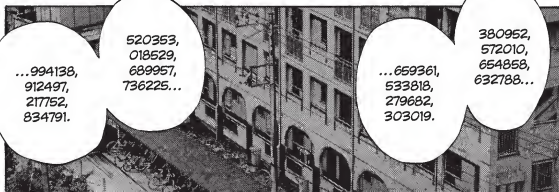
...HAVE
YOU SEEN
ANYONE
LATELY?

AIKO...



ALL
RIGHT
...

...COME
OVER
HERE.



...994138,
912497,
217752,
834791.

520353,
018529,
689957,
736225...

...659361,
533818,
279682,
303019.

380952,
572010,
654858,
632788...



...1?

3...



NO
MISTAKING
THOSE GOOD
VIBRATIONS.

ARE YOU
AWAKE,
BABY?



...
DREAMING.

I
WAS...



YOUR
SLEEP
TALKING
WAS
BEYOND
BEAUTIFUL.



DID YOU
SEE THE
FUTURE
AGAIN?

YOU WERE
ASLEEP FOR
ABOUT FIVE
DAYS.



OH YEAH,
THAT
SCOOTER
YOU WANTED
ME TO
LOOK FOR...

I
FINALLY
FOUND
IT.

...THE
EARTH WILL
BE SMASHED
TO SMITHER-
EENS...

ON
JULY
7...

OUR
PERFORM-
ANCE WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
PERFECT.

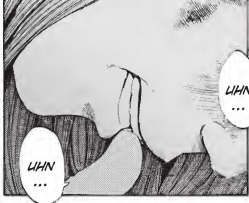


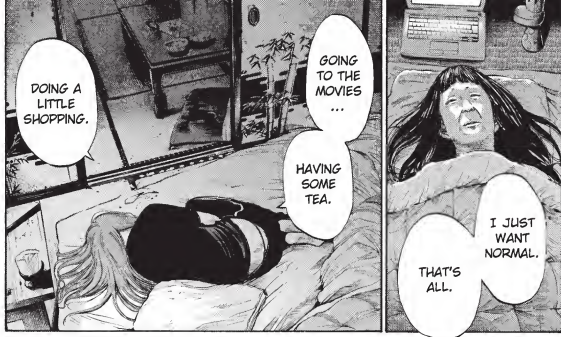
...AFTER
ALL.

IT'S A
BLACK
MARK...



THE
WORLD CAN
BECOME MORE
BEAUTIFUL!







"You
say that
knowing
I already
feel like
I need to
come."

...JUST
LEANING
ON YOUR
SWEET
NATURE.

I
WAS...



"First
you tell
me to come,
then you tell
me not to
come. You're
awfully
selfish.

BUT...

SO
PLEASE,
DON'T BE
MAD AT
ME RIGHT
NOW...

I WAS
COMPLETELY
WRONG.

...YOU
REALLY
DON'T
NEED
TO.

Nok

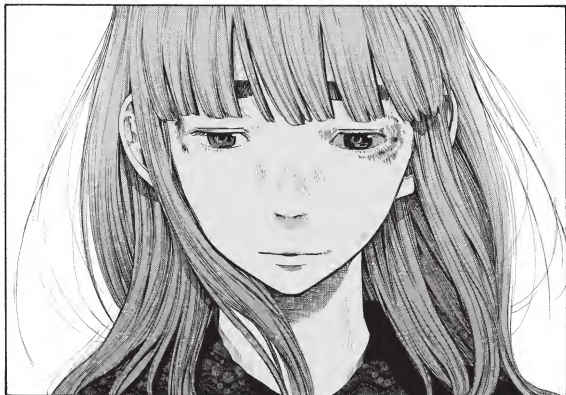
Nok

"...want to
know what
you really
want to do!"



"I
just..."

"I'm not
mad, and
I don't
care who's
wrong..."



...ARE
YOU
THERE?

PUNPUN...

...ARE
YOU
THERE?

PUNPUN...

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT I
WANT.

SORRY.

I'LL
BE AT THE
BICYCLE LOT
IN FRONT
OF THE
STATION
...

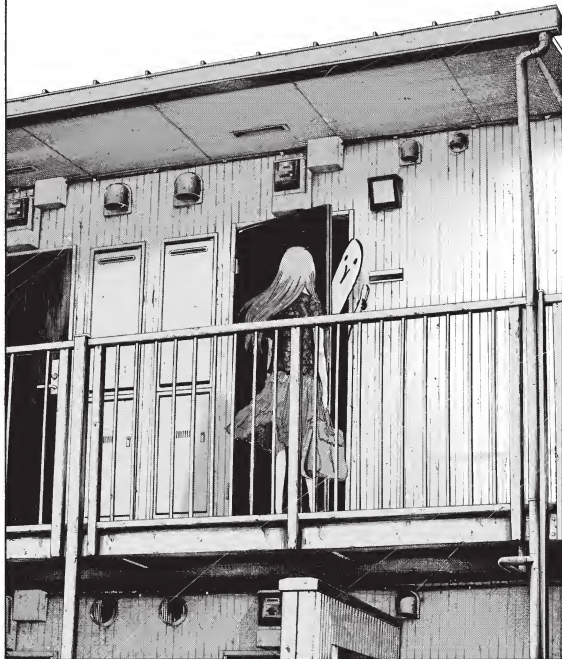
I'LL...

...LET
YOU
DECIDE.

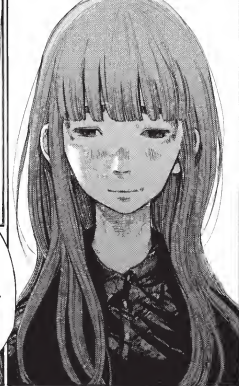
...AT THREE,
LIKE WE
AGREED.

...DO YOU
THINK WE CAN
BE NORMAL
FRIENDS?

AFTER
WE GET
THROUGH
TODAY...



"Those
bruises..."



SORRY,
WERE YOU
ON THE
PHONE?



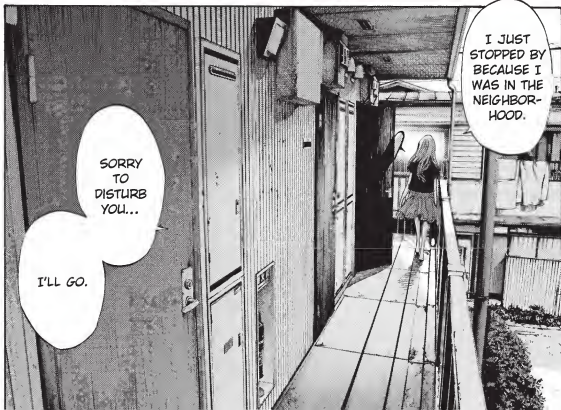
IT'S
NOTHING.

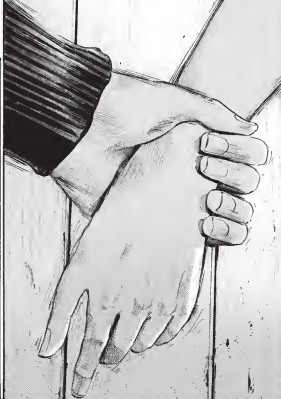
"There's
no way
that's
nothing."

SORRY
TO
DISTURB
YOU...

I'LL GO.

I JUST
STOPPED BY
BECAUSE I
WAS IN THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD.





"What
is this?"

"I don't
think I could
even boil
noodles."

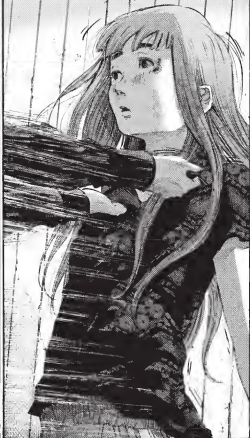
"I feel so
unsettled..."



"...just
come
out
and
say it."

"If you
have
some-
thing to
say..."



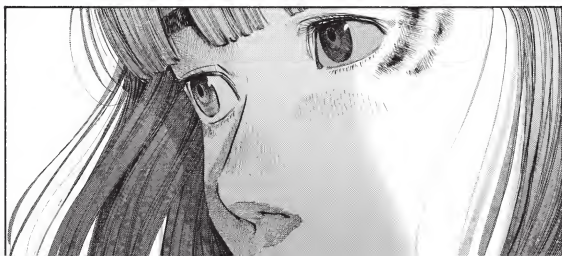


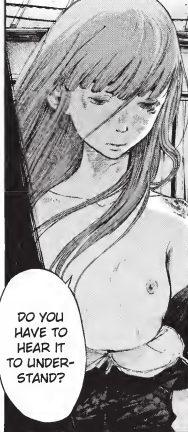
"Just
say it."

You
too.



I want to
have sex!
With you!





DO YOU
HAVE TO
HEAR IT
TO UNDER-
STAND?



I
WANTED
TO SEE
YOU...

THAT'S
ALL.

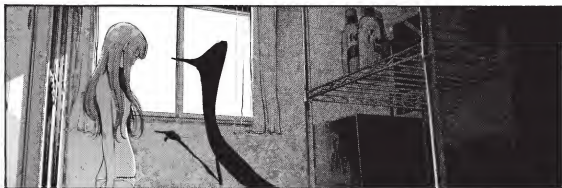
ISN'T
THAT
ENOUGH?



In the
soundless
100-square-
foot room...

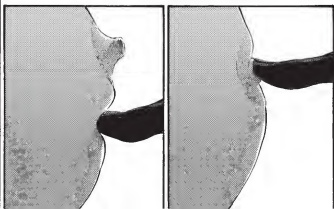
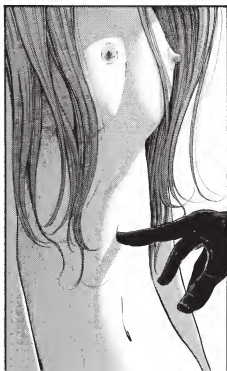


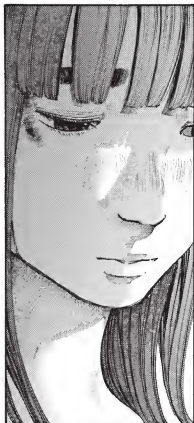
...heart-
beats
and sighs
filled the
air.



...faded
away like
a mirage.

From
somewhere,
the voices of
children on
their way home
from school...

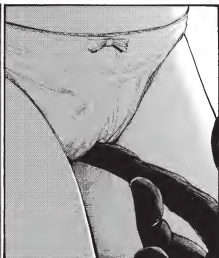


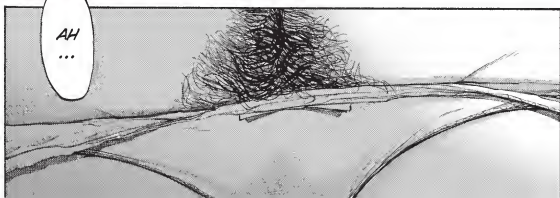
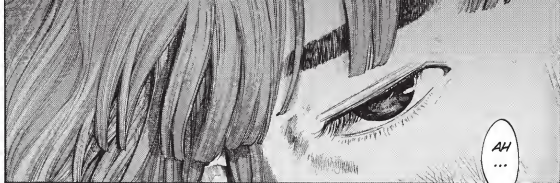


...there had
never been
a time when
he'd had a
connection
with anyone.

Thinking
back on
his twenty
years...

Never.

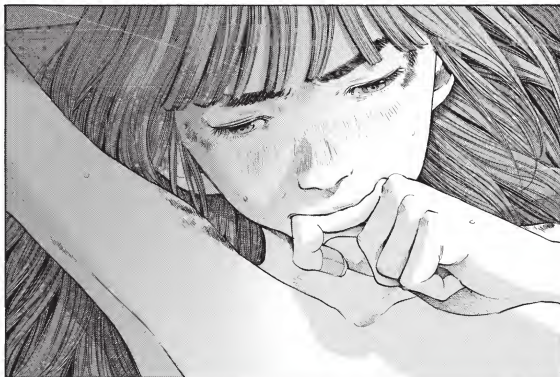






...and
screwing his
raging cock
into her with
his right...

Holding her
thigh down
with his left
hand...



...he was
unable to
stop stirring
that red-hot
vagina.

UHN.

UHN
...



AH...

...AH.

AH...

AH...



...surrendered
to gravity
and fell ever
deeper into
pleasure...

As Punpun
thought that she
was just like any
other woman,
disappointment
and happiness
formed a complex
tangle...





What if
the two of
them could
just ooze
together
like slime
and die?

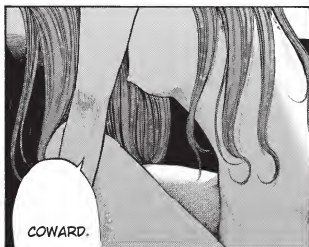
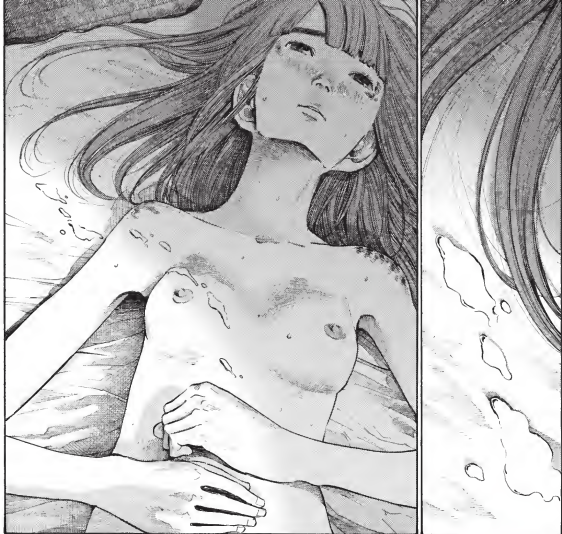
...
COME
...

...
INSIDE
ME.

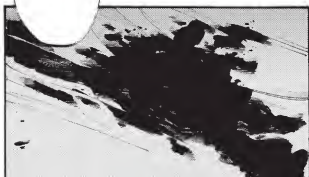
JUST

...

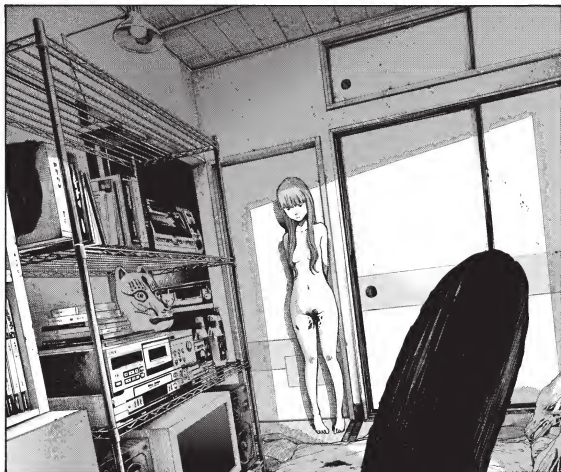




COWARD.



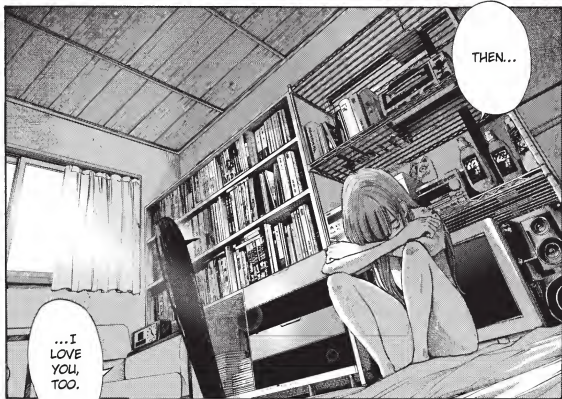
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO
NOW?



PUNPUN,
DO YOU
LOVE ME?



"I
love
you."



THEN...

...I
LOVE
YOU,
TOO.

...was
hell.

The
only
place
lower
to
fall...









...WANT
TO LEAVE
HOME.

PUNPLIN...

...I...



...I
FIGURED
THAT IF IT
MADE HER
FEEL BETTER,
IT WAS OKAY.

SO EVEN
THOUGH SHE
YELLED AT ME
AND HIT ME
EVERY DAY...

...SO
WHEN SHE
COULDN'T
WALK ANY-
MORE, I
THOUGHT I
SHOULD TAKE
CARE OF
HER.

MY MOM
HAD
A REALLY
TOUGH
LIFE...



IF MY LIFE...



BUT I STARTED THINKING ...



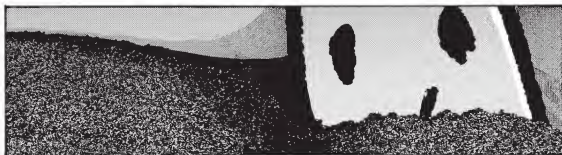
"Aiko, I
was just
thinking...

OH, AND
OF COURSE
I'M NOT
MARRIED...

WITH THE
POWER THAT
COMES FROM
HAVING LOST 10
AND GAINED 15,
I'LL CUT THOSE
GUYS IN TWO!

I REALLY
DON'T LIKE
GROUP
DATES...

YOU
WANT ME
TO PRETEND
TO BE YOUR
COWORKER,
RIGHT?



"I'm
planning to
move to a
faraway city
soon.

"...but
I don't
need to
do that.

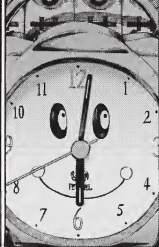
"I was
planning
to put my
affairs in
order before
leaving...

"...and
live
together."

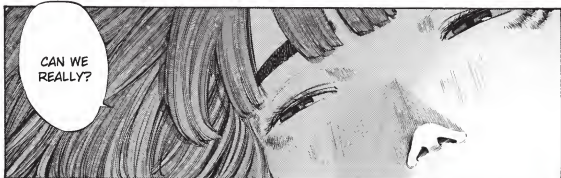
"Let's go
somewhere
far away..."

"...but
I don't
mind if
you stay
here until
then."

"I can't
leave
until I
get my
license
..."



CAN WE
REALLY?



GESUMI
...

...
BORED
!!

I
AM...

"I
wouldn't
have said
it if we
couldn't."





YOU HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT I'M
SAYING,
DO YOU?
NEITHER
DO I.

THIS
GORGEOUS
SUIT MAY BE
RIDICULOUS
FOR MY ABS,
BUT...

...IF YOU
WANT TO
SURVIVE
SHREWDLY IN
THIS ISOLATED
SOCIETY, YOU
HAVE TO
SUGARCOAT IT
AND NOT HIDE
YOUR DICK.

SIGH...

I
WANTED
TO GO TO
OKINAWA
WITH
SACHI.

"...go tell
your mom
before you
leave, okay?

"But...

"There isn't
a mother
alive who
doesn't
worry about
her child.

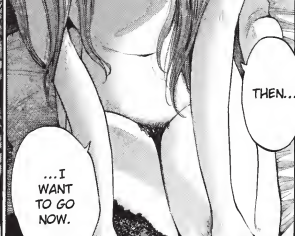
"...
so just
let me
know
when
you
feel
like
doing
it."

"I'll go
with
you to
convince
her..."



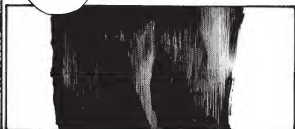


LET'S
GO
RIGHT
NOW.



THEN...

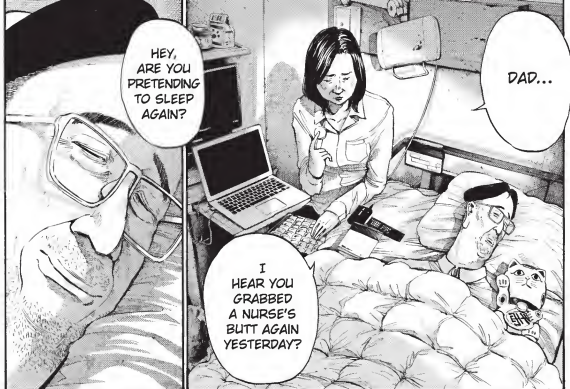
...I
WANT
TO GO
NOW.



OKAY?

...I can't
believe
you.

Aiko...



I think so too, and what you say is 100 percent correct.

...you're right. Let's go right now.

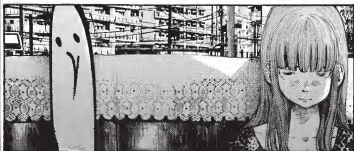
Yes...



The world
is mine.
Or more
accurately...

Everything
is in its right
place.

This is
good...



...was
always
yours.

...my
world...



...finally
began
moving.

Stalled
time...



Punpun
was sure
of it.



Aiko was
"the one"
after all.







...was
fading
away.

Ordinary
life...



...was disappearing into the quiet early dusk of 6:00 p.m.



Ordinary life, which would probably go on smoothly without him...

...ANYONE BUT YOU, PUNPUN.

I DON'T HAVE...

...JUST THE TWO OF US.

LET'S START OVER...

Don't look back.

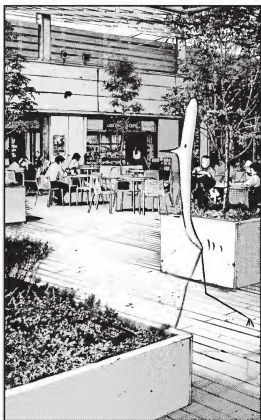
...Punpun thought.

"I'll never let go of this hand again"...

Aiko's hand was soft, warm and little, just like it had been back then...



There's
no going
back.

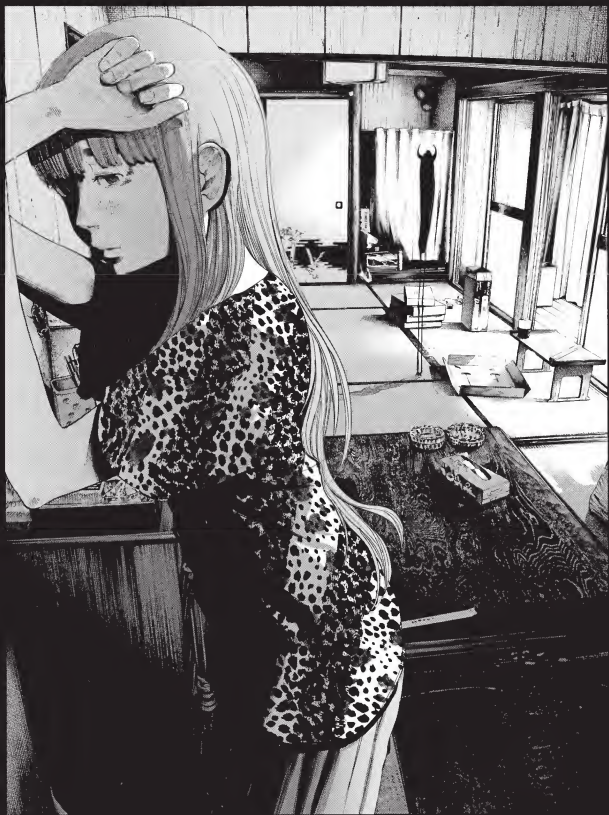


GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO
Part Ten

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HA HA AHA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA





THAT'S ALL FOR NOW.

THE THIGH-LICKING VOLUME 6 WILL BE ON SALE JUNE 2017.



INIO ASANO, a bona fide earthling, was born in Ibaraki, Japan, in 1980. In 2001, his short story "Uchu kara Konnichiwa" (Hello from Outer Space) won the first Sunday GX Rookie Prize. Later, GX published his series *Subarashi Sekai*, available in English from VIZ Media as *What a Wonderful World!* His other works include *Hikari no Machi* (City of Light), *Nijigahara Holograph* and *Umibe no Onna no Ko* (A Girl on the Shore), as well as *solanin*, also available from VIZ Media.



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

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